SANDWELL
# CHRONICLE

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## OUR ELLIE
Making waves as region's golden girl

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## SAME STORY
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# BABY BOY DIED IN MOTHER'S ARMS

**A BABY boy died in his mother's arms just 14 hours after he was born because he did not get enough oxygen during labour.**

Vicki White had been advised to stay at home by hospital staff despite falling ill during labour, an inquest heard. Lewis Booton-White was born around 3.45am on May 20 last year.

**By Adam Grinsell**

The birth came after his mother Miss White, from Smethwick, was rushed by ambulance to Birmingham City Hospital's Serenity Suite. But an inquest at Birmingham Coroner's Court heard Lewis was too poorly for treatment and at around 5.35pm, after he was baptised, he died.

Miss White told the inquest she had been to the Serenity Suite when she started labour, but was told to go home as she was only one centimetre dilated. But once at home she said she was bleeding and in constant pain.

### Lessons

At 2.05am her mother called the hospital, and Miss White said she was told to stay at home. Another call was made at 2.30am because she said she felt like she was 'ready to give birth'. She was taken by ambulance to the suite where, just 15 minutes after arriving, Lewis was born.

An internal investigation at the hospital following Lewis' death revealed there was nothing the midwife or others could have done differently. Elaine Newell, who led the investigation, told the coroner: "Clearly this was a very accelerated labour, but that's not something that can be predicted."

She added a number of lessons were learned, including that insufficient documentation was recorded during the telephone calls made by Miss White's mother.

Consultant obstetrician Dr Ramesh Ganathapy told the inquest both Lewis and placenta were small so the baby could not cope with labour. He also said that although scans prior to labour showed Lewis was growing as they would have expected, there can be discrepancies to a variance of 15 per cent. Birmingham coroner Louise Hunt recorded a narrative verdict, with a cause of death of acute intrapartum hypoxia – a lack of oxygen during birth.

After the inquest Victoria Blankstone, a solicitor representing Miss White, said: "Vicki has been left devastated by the death. We will continue to work with the family as they come to terms with this tragedy, as well as look to further understand exactly what happened whilst Vicki was in labour."

A spokesman from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust, which runs City Hospital, said: "We offer our sincere condolences. An internal investigation was undertaken at the time and full details of this were provided to the coroner."

## Gates for woods to be locked at night

ENTRANCE gates at a Sandwell beauty spot are being locked at night following a rise in complaints about anti-social behaviour.

Police say groups are driving into Warley Woods after dark and causing a nuisance by playing loud music, which is disturbing residents. Concerns have also been raised about people taking drugs at the nature reserve, which has prompted officers to take action.

Police from the Abbey neighbourhood team are closing the vehicle gates off Abbey Road on some nights to prevent cars from accessing the site after dark.

It is hoped it will deter groups from gathering at the 100-acre nature reserve.

Chairman of Warley Woods Community Trust Steve Eling said: "We've had some complaints about anti-social behaviour late into the night. It tends to be vehicles accessing the site.

"The trust doesn't routinely lock the vehicle gate as we do not have sufficient volunteers to do it. There has been no vandalism, it's more that these groups are causing a nuisance."

The trust is raising money to spruce up the Abbey Road entrance. Bosses say it is looking scruffy and they fear it may not give the best impression of the site.

## Closures for leisure sites

LEISURE centres in Sandwell will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday.

All those centres run by Sandwell Leisure Trust, including Haden Hill, Tipton, and Portway Lifestyle Centre, will be closed on Monday, but open as normal on Saturday and Sunday.

Sandwell Leisure Trust will be at the Sandwell Show in the Showground at Dartmouth Park offering visitors to their tent a chance to win a bike.

For more information contact 0300 012 0121.

## Bailey on course to serve up a treat

Bailey Atterbury, aged six, from Smethwick, has fun at the event, with his mum, Zoe White and Naina Varma

A POP-UP cooking course served up fun for youngsters at a West Bromwich supermarket. Volunteers were on hand to help children learn how to make healthy, nutritious meals and snacks.

The Farm to Fork session was organised by Children's Food Trust and Tesco and was one of 50 taking place at stores across the country. Around 4,500 youngsters aged between five and 13 are expected to take part in the sessions running throughout the summer.

The classes aim to give children the skills in the kitchen to cook a variety of meals – from couscous salad to mango chicken pittas and tomato pasta. They include practical demonstrations on baking bread, tasting new fruits and vegetables and learning about fish.

Among those who attended the session at Tesco in West Bromwich was six-year-old Bailey Atterbury and his mother Zoe White, from Smethwick.

Linda Cregan, of the Children's Food Trust, said: "An important part of the Eat Happy Project is learning how and what to cook for a healthy balanced diet – a crucial life skill.

"Helping children grow confidence in the kitchen and to learn more about healthy eating is something we've been doing for seven years through our national network of 5,000 school and community-based cooking clubs.

"Our partnership with Tesco allows us to reach even more children and their families. We know how hands-on cooking sessions encourage children and their families to try new food."

The classes are part of Tesco's Eat Happy Project, which includes taking primary school children to meet producers and suppliers. Tesco will be the first major retailer to remove sweets and chocolate from checkouts across all stores by January next year.

## Anslow to appeal against jail term

DRUG baron John Anslow, once Britain's most wanted man, is bidding for freedom after launching an appeal against his conviction for escaping from prison.

The Tipton criminal admitted conspiring to escape after being dramatically and violently sprung from a prison van travelling to court.

He is launching a bid against the conviction on the grounds that the way officers later brought him back from Cyprus – to where he had fled – was unlawful.

Anslow is also appealing against his seven-year sentence for the crime and is also planning to appeal against a 22-year sentence and conviction for a drugs conspiracy, according to his father. The 33-year-old, who has lodged a file with the Court of Appeal, is currently serving 29 years in Belmarsh Prison as a Triple Category A prisoner.

His father, also John, said his son was 'innocent' of being involved in drug dealing.

Anslow maintains that the way he was returned to the UK was unlawful – and that his subsequent escape conviction was therefore an abuse of process.

A Proceeds of Crime Application hearing, has been postponed while the appeals are lodged.

## Valley set for annual show

THOUSANDS of people are expected for the Sandwell Show on Sunday and Monday, at Sandwell Valley Showground.

Main attractions in the arena include motocross and sheepdog display teams and equine and canine stunts, while there will also be stalls, games, sports activities, a funfair and bouncy castles.

Other events for the weekend include a heavy horse logging demonstration and a falconry display.

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# School sites' hire move backed

A MOVE to allow schools to hire out their gyms, swimming pools and halls during the day as part of a package of new charges has been welcomed for boosting facilities for the community.

Organisations would be able to hire school facilities during the school day, under the proposals with a package of charges across Sandwell.

Hire charges for school sports halls and facilities in Sandwell are to go up by around two per cent, according to a new report.

But Sandwell Council is also debated delegated powers to governors to allow them to hire out facilities during the school day under plans.

The council says that the publish 'recommended' charging rates for schools which go up with inflation each year. Officials review the rates on an annual basis and schools can have their own policies provided they have full governing body agreement.

People are now charged a 'seasonal rate' simply for hiring the facility and then also by the hour. There will also be an increase in seasonal changes, payable each time the facilities like swimming pools and school halls, are used. Among the charges to go up are for small gyms which will increase from £6.57 to £6.69 under the plans.

Other increases include a change from the current rate of £13.40 for a five-a-side synthetic pitch up to £13.65.

Councillor Philip Garrett backed the move, saying it is the 'times we live in' for charges to be increased.

# Group's daytrip horror after coach overturns

**A COACH carrying dozens of children from the Black Country on a trip to the seaside crashed and overturned on a motorway.**

The 25 youngsters and accompanying adults managed to escape serious injury in the smash on the M5. Police said 53 passengers were on board when the accident happened.

Seven people – one child and six adults, including the driver – suffered minor injuries during the incident, which happened when their coach left the carriageway near junction 13 and ploughed into a ditch near Stroud, Gloucestershire.

The vehicle, from Lye-based Prospect Coaches, was taking adults and children from Bright Futures Children's Centre in West Bromwich for a day out at the seaside in Weston-super-Mare.

The coach after it overturned in a ditch off the M5, in Gloucestershire, bound for Weston-super-Mare

### Charity

It was one of four Prospect Coaches – two from West Bromwich and two from Dudley – taking members of the Action For Children charity to the Somerset resort.

The accident happened shortly after 10am on Tuesday.

The seven casualties were described as 'walking wounded', with the driver of the coach suffering a back injury. The child was taken to Bristol Children's Hospital while the adults were transported to Southmead Hospital.

A rest centre was set up near the scene before another coach firm brought the passengers back to West Bromwich.

Frank Sproson, from Gower Street, Wolverhampton, was on the coach with his six-year-old daughter Scarlet when the crash happened. Arriving back in West Bromwich, the 51-year-old said: "Most people were dozing or sleeping when it happened. My only recollection is that there was a loud bang which shook me from my sleep.

"It's a miracle that no-one was seriously injured. Because I was on the right inner aisle seat, I was dangling above people and I couldn't release myself because I would have fallen on them. When we got on the coach this morning, we went through all the checks to travel down and the driver said we should belt up. I think had we not all got our seat belts on there probably would have been a lot of serious injuries."

A view of the underside of the stricken coach

Frank Sproson, aged 51, who was on the coach

Mr Sproson added: "I would very much like to thank the passers-by that stopped and the lorry drivers that came to the rescue."

Christopher Nice, a spokesman for the Confederation of Passenger Transport, said: "There was a mixture of children and adults on a seaside day-trip. They left at around 8.30am and the coach involved in the crash had left West Bromwich, from Bright Futures Children's Centre on Huntingdon Road.

"The 57-seater coached crashed on the M5 near to Michael Wood Services." No-one from Prospect Coaches was available for comment.

A Gloucestershire Police spokesman said: "We were notified shortly before 10am that a coach had left the southbound M5 motorway close to junction 13, had overturned and landed in a ditch.

"Seven people have received minor injuries, not believed to be life threatening." Two of the other Prospect Coaches travelling to Weston continued on, while another turned back to the Black Country.

# Challenge is set for borough walkers

PEOPLE can stride out for an annual walking challenge series though the six towns of Sandwell.

The fifth annual Sandwell Six Towns Challenge takes place on Sunday.

The event, led by Sandwell Ramblers, is part of this year's Sandwell Show at Sandwell Valley

On top of the events in the park, the challenge is made up of running or walking routes of 14, 18 and 26 miles around the borough.

Being run on the Sunday, the Sandwell Ramblers-organised event will take in country parks and open spaces while making good use of the canal network.

The 26-mile route visits each of Sandwell's six towns, and takes in almost two miles of the Netherton Tunnel. Entry costs £6 in advance or is available on the day, costing £7, with registration starting at the showground outside Sandwell Park Farm from 8.30am.

All proceeds from the challenge will go towards the Mayor of Sandwell's charity, Sandwell Women's Aid.New for this year is the Sandwell Stride Jamboree Walk, which is a seven mile event around Sandwell Valley. People can turn up on the day for 10am.

# Road closes for project

WATER main connection work will result in the closure of a road in Willenhall next week.

Russell Street will be closed between the junctions of B4464 Walsall Street and John Harper Street from next Monday to September 1.

The work is being undertaken by Amey on behalf of Severn Trent Water.

A signed diversion route will be in operation for affected traffic using John Harper Street, Riley Street, Chapel Green, King Street and B4464 Walsall Street and vice versa.

# Fly-tipping cost

THE cost of Walsall fly-tippers – £206,311 – is putting services at risk, a senior councillor says. Lib Dem leader Ian Shires said: "Can you imagine just how many teachers, social workers and care workers this staggering amount of money equates to?"

# Former pub may become flats and shops

A FORMER pub which closed down earlier this year could be given a new lease of life under plans give the three-storey building a near £500,000 facelift.

The Red Fort pub had been empty since it shut in March, but bookmakers Paddy Power took over part of the building and is set to open a shop next month.

Plans have been submitted to Sandwell Council by landlord Tony Sanghera to turn the first and second floor into five apartments.

The plans also propose to create two business premises on the ground floor, while an extension will connect the old pub to the nearby garage buildings.

Mr Sanghera said they would be putting around £300,000 into the regeneration of the building, while Paddy Power were ploughing around £180,000 into the shop.

He said: "The main area of the pub has been taken over by Paddy Power but we would also like to create two business premises on the ground floor.

"Hopefully it will give a few people the chance to start up something new. We have already been in talks with a couple of people about them starting up a business there, but nothing has been signed yet.

"We had been approached by some people to open the building again as a pub, but to be honest they were nowhere near the calibre of people we wanted to be running a pub."

Mr Sanghera said something had to be done to the garage buildings behind the former pub. He said: "They were the stables for the old pub and they are in a poor state, they need to come down really.

"So we thought we would create some apartments in the first and second floor and hopefully give a new business a chance in the area with the two spaces on the ground floor.

"Paddy Power have said they were going to put almost £180,000 into refurbishing the area and we're going to put about £300,000 in, so it's almost half a million pounds of regeneration for the area."

Local councillor Linda Horton said she would welcome the building coming back into use.

# Midland housing market slowing

DEMAND for new homes in the West Midlands is beginning to slow down, whilst the supply of new properties coming onto the market has increased for the second consecutive month.

The July residential market survey for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found that as a result of the rebalancing in demand and supply, house price growth across the region appears to be moderating, with a net balance of 42 per cent more respondents reporting an increase in prices in July compared to 56 per cent in June.

In London, both sales and new buyer demand fell more sharply than elsewhere, with enquiries falling at their fastest rate since April 2008 and a net balance of 10 per cent more respondents reporting an increase in prices.The average number of sales per chartered surveyor in the West Midlands, however, increased to 28 – up from 17 at the same time last year – and sales expectations remain positive across the UK at both the three and 12-month range.

Prices are still projected to rise nationally over the next year and are expected to increase by 2.6 per cent on a 12-month view.

# Bandstand event hailed

A GROUP of poets and musicians came together to perform their work at an event which has been hailed as a success.

Bards, Bands and Ballads was held at Walsall Arboretum's bandstand and featured a mixture of poets and musicians.

Performers included Dr Brian Dakin, an author, poet, musician and broadcaster on Black Country Community Radio, from the School of English at Aston University, band Canard du Jour, poet Krissy Griffiths and Walsall Councillor Chris Towe played guitar.

# On the ramble

A RAMBLER group will head off on a seven mile walk of Lichfield this weekend. The Walsall group of Ramblers will go on the stroll around paths and lanes of Longdon Green. For more details call 01543 379374 or visit www.walsallramblers.co.uk

# Astle family hit out at FA's concussion moves

**THE family of West Brom legend Jeff Astle have warned that new rules to protect concussed football players do not go far enough.**

Earlier this month the Football Association introduced new rules that club doctors will be allowed to remove players from the field if they suspect concussion. The Premier League has also announced that 'tunnel doctors' will be mandatory for all games.

These extra staff will be able to assist club doctors in assessing concussion. But Dawn Astle, daughter of former Albion striker Jeff, has said football needs to address the wider issue of head and brain injuries.

A prolific header of the ball, Jeff died in 2002 of suspected Alzheimer's aged just 59, but new tests have revealed that he had the brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which is found in brain-damaged ex-boxers.

Dawn said: "We welcome any steps, however small, to address the problem of brain injuries. The bit we are disappointed about is that there's no mention in this new guidance that concussion can be fatal. There's nothing in there about long-term implications, which is what dad had."

Last season Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was knocked unconscious on the field, but allowed to play on.

Dawn added that it is a 'kick in the teeth' that the FA are seemingly doing something after that incident, which happened in front of the television cameras, but nothing was done for players 40 years ago.

She said: "People say that the ball has changed, that it's lighter, but there's no research to say it's any safer than the old ball, because it travels at a faster speed. So for people to assume it's safe is wrong."

# Farage's support for Rowe

UKIP Leader Nigel Farage has endorsed his party's candidate for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The MEP-backed Keith Rowe saying he was not a political 'yes man'. The election takes place today, Thursday, following the death of Labour's Bob Jones. Mr Farage said: "Keith brings a lifetime of working in the family business in the Midlands and has raised his own family there. Like so many of our candidates he knows his patch and brings real life experience from the patch into the role.

"He is focused on serving his constituents rather than being a political 'yes man'. Surely, this is exactly the breath of fresh air politics needs. I hope the people of the West Midlands get behind him."

Labour's Derek Jamieson has already been backed by the shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper while Conservative Les Jones was supported by the home secretary Theresa May on a recent visit to the West Midlands. The other candidate is Liberal Democrat Ayoub Khan.

From left, Robert Fletcher and twin brother Jim, who celebrated their 95th birthday

# Wartime twins in milestone birthday

COULD these two Second World War veterans be the oldest twins in the Black Country?

Robert and Jim Fletcher were born on August 2, 1919, and after scraping their way through the Second World War, the pair have gone on to live to 95.

The brothers, who were born in Harwood Street, West Bromwich, began their working life aged 15 as bricklayers, but were soon called up to serve in the Army. Robert served for seven years in Italy and Northern Africa, while Jim is a D-Day veteran who was captured and held in a prisoner of war camp for 11 months.

The pair celebrated their birthdays with their respective families. Robert, who lives in West Bromwich, had three children with first wife Edith; Pat, who died earlier this year, Robert, 66 and Paul 58. He also has eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Jim, who now lives in Coseley, married his wife Gladys in 1941 at Christ Church in Coseley, and had one son, also called Jim, who is 70, and has two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New owners for historic steel firm

ONE of the oldest businesses in the Black Country has been snapped up to become part of a growing manufacturing group.

All 40 workers at Bromford Iron & Steel, in Oldbury, will keep their jobs following the takeover by OSSL – Off Shore Sourcing Ltd. Bromford was sold, along with Birmingham firm Envirotanks, by former owners Hill & Smith in a £1.5 million deal announced this week.

Bromford, which can trace its roots back to a blacksmith in 1610, now makes hot-rolled steel.

### Comic Jo set for city return

MIDLAND comedienne Jo Enright is returning to her roots for a show in Birmingham later this year.

Having appeared on Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights and Life's Too Short with Warwick Davis, Jo Enright is also a well-respected stand up comic.

Se returns to Birmingham as part of the city's comedy festival to perform her Erdington Girl show.

She will appear in the studio room at The Glee Club on October 2 it has been announced.

### Chance to try Brum's cuisine

BIRMINGHAM'S developing food scene will be in the spotlight at the city's Independent Food Fair.

Bars and restaurant as well as food and drink producers from in and around the city will be exhibiting at Millennium Point on September 13, 9am to 6pm.

Tickets at £7.50, allowing eight examples of food and drink, are available from www.bhamindfoodfair.co.uk

### Clinic scheme for two homes

HOMES could be converted as part of the expansion of a specialist health clinic in Walsall under new plans to be considered by the council this week.

Two semi-detached houses in Chester Road, Streetly, will become offices and meeting rooms for the adjacent Newbridge House, despite objections over noise and traffic.

### Care home boost

A RESIDENTIAL care home in the Black Country is to be expanded after getting the go-ahead from planning chiefs. Holly Bank House in Willenhall houses adults with physical disabilities.


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# THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

YOU have just qualified as a heart surgeon. You may owe £100,000 in college fees but you have a glittering career ahead, saving lives and earning a fortune. Then you pick up the paper this week and learn that Imperial College London is developing a new gene therapy which may cure heart failure with a simple injection. When good news is bad news.

THE Tories' latest brainwave is to knock on the doors of terraced houses, ascertain that the occupants are hard-working folk and then spit in their faces. That's not strictly true. What the Tories are actually doing is inviting White Dee of Benefits Street to be a guest speaker at their conference. But it amounts to the same thing.

IN Scotland Votes (BBC2) Andrew Neil wasted far too much time agonising about what would happen to Trident and the UK nuclear deterrent if an independent Scotland ordered all nuclear warheads off its territory. The filing cabinets of Whitehall are stuffed full of contingency plans for everything from the Russians landing in Oban to France annexing Dover. If Alex Salmond's government declared a nuclear-free Scotland, the contingency plans would be dusted off and the Trident submarines would slip silently under the Clyde, reappearing a few days later in the mothballed pens which have been ready for them for the past 50 years. I'm guessing somewhere on the east coast of the United States but this is all Top Secret so you mustn't tell anyone.

A BIBLE basher refers me to the Book of Zechariah which predicts the end of the world shortly after Israel is invaded by "a power from the north" which he says could be Russia, Iran or Isis. That's the great thing about prophecies. You write them in 500 BC and 2,514 years later they finally come right (or more likely, wrong).

WE woke to the news that Robin Williams was dead. If you switched on the radio and caught the tributes before you realised who they were talking about, you'd never have guessed the dead person was a Hollywood celebrity. They said he was kind, sweet and humble. There's not a lot of that in Tinseltown.

TOLD you so. Already, more than 200,000 of the 800,000 souvenir poppies on display at the Tower of London have been snapped up. This is going to end in tears, with thousands of disappointed folk leaving it too late.

ONE of the nastiest forms of prejudice is the assumption that everyone else is prejudiced. The former boxing promoter Frank Maloney reveals he is undergoing sex-change treatment and is now a woman called Kellie. Virtually all the coverage on TV and print seems to assume that hordes of wicked, bigoted people will scorn Maloney and either laugh in her face or spit on her in the street. In fact, the reaction to Maloney's sex change has been generally kind, understanding and perhaps a little curious.

SO in the great scheme of things what should we worry about? Is it a) One silly Ukip politician telling young people to study Adolf Hitler's public-speaking technique or b) 20,000 people attending an anti-Israel rally in London and thus giving comfort to Hamas, whose aim is to finish the Holocaust that Adolf Hitler began?

THAT national treasure Lionel Blair is celebrating 65 years in showbiz and admits he is hurt by occasional barbs, including the running jokes about him on I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (Radio 4). Only a few weeks ago chairman Jack Dee quipped that when Lionel was born they broke the mould – just to be on the safe side.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Visitors to region up by half a million

VISITORS to the Black Country helped generate more than £825 million in revenue for the local economy last year.

New figures from Marketing Birmingham's research arm the Regional Observatory and tourism research body, Global Tourism Solutions show visitor numbers were up by nearly 500,000 to 25.7 million.

The annual report which assesses the economic impact of visitors to the UK's major cities also found that employment supported by tourism rose to more than 11,650 full time equivalent jobs – an increase of 550 jobs or five per cent.

Councillor Darren Cooper, chairman of the Black Country Joint Committee, said: "This is fantastic news for the region, the additional visitors and employment growth to nearly 12,000 jobs demonstrates that our distinctive visitor economy and cultural sectors are increasingly important to the Black Country economy."

Peter Suddock, chief executive of Dudley Zoo, said: "Our visitor numbers have risen substantially year on year, a trend that has continued in the first seven months of this year, up 17 per cent on the same period in 2013."

Mr Suddock, who is a member of the industry-led board of the newly-launched Tourism Council, added: "Tourism is vitally important to the West Midlands economy, bringing in one billion pounds per annum. "

He said the zoo was playing its part by thriving as a totally unique attraction and the increase in visitor numbers was due to continual across-site investment and development.

# Wartime leave led to precious years together

Four generations of Jeff and Violet's family celebrate the couple's 70th anniversary milestone

Geoff in marines dress uniform when he got wed

**HE had to ask for leave from the Royal Marines to get married – but it was all worth it as Jeff and Violet Whittingham, who are both in their 90s, are now celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.**

By Jonathan Pritchard

The couple met in Brunswick Park in Wednesbury in 1941, when Violet was 17 and Jeff was 19.

A year later he was called up to serve in the war, serving with the Royal Marines until 1946. But he managed to find time to marry Violet on August 19, 1944, the day after her 20th birthday, at St Bartholomew's Church in Wednesbury.

Mr Whittingham said: "I had to ask for leave just to get married. They were lining us up for roll call every day and some people were going off for the D-Day landings.

"But I got lucky and I was told that because I wasn't needed in Europe I could go home and get married." Mr Whittingham went on to serve in Australia, India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore before returning home in 1946.

During the war, Violet worked as a jewellery maker in Hockley, Birmingham, for a company called Collins, but after Jeff returned home, she left her job so they could start a family.

Mr Whittingham said: "We've had a happy life together and always sorted out any problems really quickly.

"And now we have all the pleasure of our grandchildren to live for."

The couple, who live in Lime Road, Wednesbury, had three sons, Terry, 66, Philip, 53, and Stephen, who died four years ago aged 55.

Unfortunately, the couple have lost touch with their two surviving sons, and have no idea how many grandchildren they may have.

They do have one grand-daughter through Stephen, who had a daughter, called Nicola, with his wife Yvonne.

They are great-grandparents to Nicola's four children; Cerys, 11, Dilys, nine, Malakai, seven, and Tate, three.

Daughter-in-law Yvonne said: "When Jeff came out of the Royal Marines, he took up a job with his father who was a professional builder, and became a builder himself. Violet left her job to have a family, and was devoted to looking after children, not always hers. She was the nanny of Lime Road, where they have lived for 41 years.

"She was a keen gardener, it always was and still is a beautiful garden. When Jeff finally hung up his trowel, he used to help her out in the garden. He also used to help out with some jobs building things for the family as well."

The couple were joined by friends and family on Saturday for a party to celebrate their milestone anniversary. There is also another special milestone for Violet as she has just turned 90.

Yvonne said: "We had a big party at St Mary's Social Club in Wednesbury and it was a fantastic night. There was lots of friends and family there and I think Violet was a little overwhelmed by it all but they both enjoyed it."

The couple didn't have a honeymoon due to the involvement of Jeff, who is now 92, in the war.

But Yvonne said they have more than made up for it with caravan holidays around Britain.

She said: "If you had to ask them for their favourite memories from their marriage I'm sure they would say it would be when they were caravanning. But they also used to have some great parties around Christmas and New Year, with all the family round."

# Dwindling numbers see Rank profits fall

MECCA Bingo's owner The Rank Group saw a slide in profits in 2013-2014 as fewer people visited its clubs.

The group expects to be helped by the halving of bingo duty, which was announced in the Budget.

The Mecca business suffered a 16 per cent slide in profits in the 12 months to June 30 as visits to Mecca's 97 clubs, which include branches in Oldbury, Wednesbury and West Bromwich, dropped seven per cent to 12.6 million in the year to June 30, although this was an improvement on the 10 per cent fall seen in the first quarter.

The better trend followed the introduction of lower priced sessions, a refer-a-friend reward scheme and various food and drink promotions after a review of all venues – session by session – found some offers were uncompetitive.

Mecca's operating profits dropped to £37 million as Rank Group, which also owns Grosvenor casinos, including a site in Walsall, saw profits drop four per cent to £62.5m.

Grosvenor's profits were 20 per cent higher at £56.8m as it benefited from the conversion of 19 former Gala Coral sites into its own formats such as G Casino.

# Waterboys top the bill

THE Moseley Folk Festival gets underway from August 29 to 31 at Moseley Park, Birmingham. This year's headliners include The Waterboys, Johnny Marr, Richard Thompson, Thurston Moore, The Felice Brothers and Lau.

Also on the bill over the three day event are The Old Dance School, Marissa Nadler, Lisa Knapp, Dan Whitehouse, The Gren Bartley Band and many more.

Doors open at 1pm on Friday and 11am on Saturday and Sunday. Ticket prices for adults range from £35 up to £180.

# Dining boost

A RESTAURANT which was opened in place of a former sub-station has submitted plans to expand, creating new jobs. Lloyds Cafe has put forward an application to take on space formerly occupied by a neighbouring garden centre in Park Lane, Wednesbury.

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# Unipart workers taken on by group

A VEHICLE parts group with a major base in the Black Country has taken on more than 500 workers who lost their jobs in the collapse of Unipart Automotive a fortnight ago. The Parts Alliance is a network of 278 parts distribution depots across the UK. Based in Solihull, it's main warehouse is a 30,000 sq ft operation in Smethwick.

Some 320 jobs were saved when, in a joint rescue deal, The Parts Alliance and one of its associate members, Andrew Page, took over 33 Unipart Automotive branches, including sites in Walsall and Stafford, after the firm collapsed with the loss of 1,200 jobs.

Another 180 have also been taken on by Parts Alliance businesses nationwide. Peter Sephton, chief executive of The Parts Alliance, said: "We have worked hard to interview and re-employ close to 500 talented individuals whose great experience and skills will benefit The Parts Alliance and our customers

"Those re-employed include people at all levels, from senior members of the national accounts team and regional directors to parts advisers, branch managers, business and operations specialists."

# Pets to go on parade

THE National Pet Show will be taking place at the NEC in Birmingham next month.

It will be held on September 20 and 21 and will be divided into key areas – discover dogs, discover cats, discover small furries, discover ponies and discover animals, which organisers say will make it easier for visitors to make their way around.

The event is normally held in London and this is the first time it has branched out elsewhere in the UK.

For more information and tickets log onto www.thenationalpetshow.com

# Charity dance

DANCERS are invited to a ballroom event at Wombourne Civic Centre on September 13, organised by Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee, from 8-11pm. Tickets are £4 from 01922 683159 or 01902 893872, in aid of the renal unit at New Cross Hospital.

# In the pink for Metro start to be on track

The new trams seen in their pink livery

THE first of a £40 million fleet of new Midland Metro trams will start running between Wolverhampton and Birmingham next month it has been announced.

The four new trams, which bosses say are bigger and offer a smoother, quieter ride than the existing models, are part of a 20-strong fleet coming into service over the next few months.

They will start operating on September 5.

It comes as work is due to be completed next year on an extension of the Metro line through Birmingham city centre linking the Snow Hill and New Street stations.

Preliminary ground works have also started on a second extension from New Street Station to Centenary Square while the Government earmarked more than £90m last month towards two further routes along Broad Street to Edgbaston, just west of Five Ways, and to the planned high speed rail station in the city's Eastside district.

The business case for the Wolverhampton Interchange project, which includes a Metro extension to the city's bus and rail stations, was also submitted earlier this month.

Each new tram, built by Spanish manufacturer CAF, is a third bigger than the existing 16-strong fleet of Ansaldo Trasporti models, carrying 210 passengers compared to 156.

As the number of new trams being deployed increases Centro bosses say they will be able to step up the frequency of the Metro to every six minutes throughout the day.

This will boost overall capacity by 40 per cent, easing overcrowding. At least one new tram is arriving each month at the Midland Metro depot in Wednesbury from CAF's factory in Zaragoza.

# Depression led to woman jumping off M5 bridge

**A WOMAN who was found on the hard shoulder of the M5 had jumped off a bridge after suffering from depression, an inquest heard.**

Jacqueline Gallagher, from West Bromwich, fell from a road bridge near junction 1 of the M5 in the early hours of the morning on April 2.

The inquest, held at Smethwick Council Chamber, heard that Miss Gallagher, 53, had been suffering from depression and panic attacks.

Her marriage break-up, several years earlier, had sparked her problems.

The mother-of-two, who lived in Marnham Road, West Bromwich at the time of her death, was found by a lorry driver.

Richard Gathergood, a unit inspector with Central Motorway Policing Group, attended the scene. He told the inquest he had instructed one of his officers to conduct a search of the woman's body, where they found a note written on the back of a prescription. Officers found a car nearby, 'which we established was hers'.

Michael Morrow, a bank nurse at Sandwell General Hospital, where Miss Gallagher used to work, said she had voluntarily attended the emergency department at the hospital in March after a suicide attempt.

Her GP, Dr Baljinder Randhawa, said she first met with Miss Gallagher when she was suffering from depression in 2010. She said: "We discussed the overdose. She told me that she still didn't want to be alive but she was doing it for her sons and her mother."

Senior coroner for the Black Country Robin Balmain said: "I propose to record the conclusion that this lady killed herself. This is tragic. She seemed to have everything to live for"

# Train firm in call for new blood

VIRGIN Trains is on the look-out for young, unemployed people from the West Midlands to join their new traineeship scheme.

Youngsters between the ages of 18 and 24 are being invited to apply for places on the course, run in conjunction with Solihull College that starts in October.

The 13-week course will combine classroom training with real life experience of the front line, working as a key member of Virgin Train's own customer service team in the West Midlands.

Successful candidates will achieve a level one certificate in Customer Service, a level two certificate in employability skills and functional skills in English and maths in addition to a reference and the opportunity to be fast-tracked into Virgin Trains talent pool.

"We're excited to be partnering with Solihull College," said Amanda Robinson of Virgin Trains.

"We know that there are a lot of young, talented people in the West Midlands who are struggling to find work."

# Students celebrate their Ace results

Overjoyed, from left, Roxanne Unitt, Laura Durrant, Prayse Obayelu, Jordan Kelley, and Raihan Ali, all aged 18

STUDENTS, colleges and schools have been celebrating their bumper success in their A-Level results.

Jubilant sixth formers at Sandwell College have achieved a 'phenomenal' first ever set of A-Level results.

Central Sixth achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in 19 different subjects and a 99 per cent pass rate overall. The sixth form in West Bromwich opened just two years ago, taking over the entire top storey of the £77 million Sandwell College campus. Director of Central Sixth, Dr Matt Lamb, said: "We're thrilled with these phenomenal results in our very first year.."

Meanwhile ACE Academy in Tipton are also celebrating a successful year with many of their students contemplating a future at university.

Jordan Kelly, 18, of Hursey Drive, Tipton, said: "I'm really pleased with my results and I can't wait to go to university now."

Raihan Ali, also 18, who studied accounts, maths and business, said: "I'm really happy with my results, they're actually even better than I expected. I want to go on and study accounting at Aston University."

Ormiston Forge Academy Sixth Form in Cradley Heath were celebrating their best ever A level and AS level results. The majority of the 120 students achieved three or more A-Level passes, 83 per cent with two or more and 100 per cent with one or more.

At Wood Green Academy in Wednesbury, there was a 99 per cent pass rate. A total of 110 pupils sat their A levels and 69 per cent achieved A*-C passes.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Singer Bocelli to host Brum show

CLASSICAL music star Andrea Bocelli is returning to the Midlands on tour later this year.

The singer, who has sold more than 80 million albums across the world will perform at Birmingham's LG Arena on November 21.

It will be the final date on a four show tour of the UK and Ireland as Italian tenor promotes his latest album Passione. Two guests are to be announced in the coming weeks.

The biggest selling solo classical artist of all time, tickets to see him start at £51.10 – visit www.lgarena.co.uk/whatson

### Open day and sale at venue

ST Martin's Community Hall is having it's annual heritage open day and bric a brac sale on Saturday September 13.

The hall, which was built in 1935, will be opened for the public to take a look around for free while browsing through church stock and stalls set up by people from the local community.

St Martin's is located on Dixon Street, Parkfields.

Those who wish to set up a stall will be able to do so for £2.50.

### Collision teen sent to hospital

A TEENAGER suffered neck and chin injuries after being hit by a car in Warley. He was hit on Hagley Road West, near the junction with Stanley Road, at around 12.40pm last Monday. He was confused when paramedics assessed him at the scene so was taken to hospital.

Spokesman Chris Kowalik, said: "His heart rate had increased and his speech was repetitive."

### Circus in town at leather museum

A PUPPET show, circus acts and a clown will all be keeping youngsters entertained this Bank Holiday Monday. The entertainment will kick off between 10.30am and 4.30pm at Walsall Leather Museum.

Visitors can have their faces painted and get glitter tattoos. Call 01922 652288 or email leathermuseum@walsall.gov.uk

### Music madness

OUR House – The Musical, featuring songs from Madness, runs at Cannock's Prince of Wales Centre between September 4 and 6. Shows are at 7.30pm and tickets cost £13. Call 01543 578762 for details.


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## IN MY VIEW

**with Mark Andrews**

MIRANDA Hart is one of the funniest comedy stars of our time. When you come down to it, she is just about the only purveyor of simple, funny, family friendly comedy around at the moment.

After all, who else is doing mainstream comedy these days? All we get at the moment are the tired old American imports, foul-mouthed public school stand ups and endless dreary panel games populated by the usual circuit of posh boys.

Which makes it all the more depressing is that Miranda Hart has just been announced as the new host of the Generation Game. Let's be honest. There are lots of shows from the 1970s that are well worth reviving, but the Generation Game isn't one of them.

There was only one host who truly made it work, and no, he didn't wear a toupe. Larry Grayson was good. Sharp as a knife, quick witted and entertaining.

Larry Grayson's Generation Game was the perfect warm up to Saturday-night viewing, with Mike Yarwood, Juliet Bravo, or whatever else on afterwards. But take away Grayson, and all you really had was a few middle-aged housewives making a pig's ear of pottery or cake decorating or whatever.

Which is not really much of an improvement on watching oddballs murdering popular tunes of the past decade or so. Or washed-up politicians and minor celebrities trying their hand at the tango. It really is tragic.

Miranda, if you've got any sense, think again. Stick to what you're good at. Writing sitcoms. And leave the Generation Game where it truly belongs. To the past generation.

❒❒❒

AFTER what seems like one of the shortest close-seasons in years, the football season is well and truly back with us.

Normally, this is a time of hope and optimism, of looking forward to the new season. And indeed my team, Aston Villa, made a reasonably solid start, notching up a difficult 1-0 victory away to Stoke City.

So why is it I can't ever remember going into a new season feeling quite so underwhelmed? Well maybe it is something to do with a statistic in a quiz by the Football League Trust last week. Essentially, it asked, if all the teams in the Premier League during the 2012/2013 season were ranked in order of how much they spent on players, how would that differ from the actual league table at the end of the season?

Depressingly, the answer is that one solitary team actually performed better on the field than they did in the transfer window. Or put it another way, it is almost entirely down to money.

Going into the new season at the weekend, which was the lowest-spending side in the Premier League? Aston Villa. Perhaps you will understand my trepidation...

Ellie's baking skills saw her win experts' plaudits

In the pool on her way to win the 200m at Eind-

The swimmer poses next to her gold post box

# Ellie is making waves as our own golden girl

**CHARLOTTE LILLEY** looks at Ellie Simmonds' rise as an inspirational swimmer and celebrity

**SHE is the sports star who can't stop winning.**

Paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds first found her way into the nation's hearts after winning her first gold medals at the Paralympics in Beijing aged 13.

Then she became the poster girl of London 2012 when she picked up a medal in each of her four events.

And along the way she has been made an OBE and even wowed Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry with her baking skills.

More recently the now 19-year-old excelled herself once again winning three golds and silver at the European Championships in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands.

Ellie broke her own world record to win gold in the SM6 200m individual medley. She finished in a time of three minutes 4.07 seconds, beating her old time by 0.34 seconds.

However, after swimming the 400m freestyle S6 title in five minutes 28.31 seconds, the ever-perfectionist from Aldridge said that while she was 'really happy' to win gold, 'it was a rubbish swim. I'm not happy with the time.'

Her father Steve says: "Ellie wasn't happy with her time because she was hoping to be a little bit quicker.

"I am very proud of her and so is her mum because she is constantly getting better and better every time she takes to the pool."

Walsall's golden girl was the youngest British athlete at the 2008 summer Paralympics in Beijing and after winning two medals she followed the feat with two more golds at the 2012 Paralympics.

Last year she was crowned star baker when she took part in Comic Relief's celebrity version of The Great British Bake Off. She whipped up some tasty chocolate orange scones to get plaudits from judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, while her showstopper soldier cake landed her joint top spot with Newsnight's Kirsty Wark.

"She has got bags of energy and she's always on the go and getting involved with something or other," says Steve.

"At the minute she is keeping herself busy training because she gets her A-Level results next week and she is a little nervous about them."

Ellie seen after receiving her silver medal at the European Championships

The paralympian is currently studying psychology at Loughborough College and wants to continue with her studies next year. She moved to Leicester from Swansea and began training with new coach Steve Bailey a year ago.

Her father says: "She has been doing really well with Steve but I think she was a little apprehensive at first about taking part," he says.

"It's great having Ellie in Loughborough because it is only down the road.

"She is a real homebody and enjoys spending time with her family. " She has also enlisted the help of comedian David Walliams for a campaign to get people swimming next month. She features in a video giving her own swimming tips for SwimBritain.

The initiative invites people to take part in a four-person relay where each team member swims 250m four times around a specially-designed course.

Walliams, who famously swam the River Thames for charity, has created a video with Ellie to talk about their shared love for swimming.

In the video Ellie says the greatest moment in her sporting career was going to Beijing and taking part in the 2012 London Paralympics. "To take the gold and hear the roar, it was a real buzz," she says.

After the European Championships she will begin training for the World Championships, which will be held in Glasgow next year.

### Disappointed

She was forced to watch this year's Commonwealth Games from the sidelines as the competition did not have a swimming category for her. Her father says: "Ellie wasn't able to compete at the Commonwealth Games because it isn't like the Olympics in that it doesn't have her class of swimming.

"She was a little bit disappointed, but the European Championships were what she wanted to focus on more and next year she has got the World Championships in Glasgow which she is looking forward to. After that she will be thinking about Rio and qualifying for the Olympics there."

In 2011, the swimmer was awarded an OBE for services to Paralympic sport and in 2012 a golden postbox was unveiled in her home town of Aldridge.

Royal Mail painted the former red postbox in High Street. Mr Simmonds says: "Ellie loves the post box and still visits it and tells us that whenever we have letters to post we must only use that box."

## WEEK IN POLITICS

**with Daniel Wainwright**

UKIP'S Bill Etheridge learned a rather valuable lesson last week about public speaking – that it's generally a bad idea to say anything that could be construed as positive about Adolf Hitler.

Ironically, it was a seminar on effective public speaking that saw his comments rounded on by his party's critics.

Why the West Midlands MEP decided it would be a good idea to even bring up the Nazi leader at all, let alone suggest budding politicians look at his speaking style, only he can say.

And I've never known any modern politician win a seat by walking up and down during a speech and fixing the audience with his or her stare the way Mr Etheridge was said to have described Hitler.

Far from being 'desperate' for politicians to start talking, as Mr Etheridge says those who listened to Hitler were, these days people are more likely to stand up and walk out or worse.

No-one hangs on David Cameron or Ed Miliband's words. Every time they tweet anything the first response is usually from someone calling them, respectively, Dishface and Beaker.

But has this damaged UKIP? Not particularly, if online reaction is anything to go by.Those who were against UKIP remained resolute on that, taking this story as further evidence that they do not deserve a seat in the Commons.

Yet those who were already part of the so-called 'earthquake' of the European and council elections in May were content with Mr Etheridge's side of the story and rallied round to condemn the Mail on Sunday for its coverage.

Every Black Country council is now under the control of Labour. Walsall's Tories were forced from power in a special meeting called after a by-election gave Labour back the 30 seats it was on after May's local elections.

The death after those elections of leader Tim Oliver left Labour on 29 and meant a rainbow alliance – albeit a rainbow missing any shades of red – of Tories, Lib Dems, UKIP and independence voted for the status quo.

Labour ended up paying to fly three of its councillors back from their summer holidays for the crucial vote.

Politically, it might not be the worst thing for the Tories. They would have continued to get stick for staying in control after being reduced to just over a third of the seats.

And now they get to campaign for the next election against an incumbent Labour party that won't yet have got its feet under the table. At least, that's what I'd say if I were the Conservatives and putting a brave face on it.

Labour has the advantage of being both incumbent locally and in opposition in Westminster. And that's certainly done it no harm in Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley these past few years.

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# Alex gets ready for a knockout blow

HAVING watched some of Scotland's independence debate on TV, it occurs to me that Alex Salmond has set himself up for a knockout blow.

Perhaps if Alastair Darling had thought a bit quicker on his feet, it could all be over bar the shouting.

Salmond's insistence that Scotland can exist as an independent country to rival any other small country is completely undermined by his equally strong insistence that Scotland should maintain sterling as its currency.

By keeping sterling he is actually admitting that Scotland cannot be independent as other countries, because it is incapable of supporting its own currency, a fundamental duty of any independent nation. Relying on Britain's currency makes Scotland's financial security completely dependent on Britain. Therefore it cannot be truly independent.

Mr Salmond is also showing contempt for the rest of Britain by expecting us to underpin Scotland's economy using our currency without Scotland contributing anything to the strength of the currency.

Therefore, if British taxpayers are expected to provide such assistance, shouldn't the rest of Britain have a say in the referendum? Why didn't the Government pick up on this when the referendum was approved by parliament?

On another matter, Mr Salmond bemoans Scotland being dictated to by a Tory government, but if his SNP had not taken votes from Labour and Liberals, in the General Election, the Tories might not be in such a strong position now. 'Slippery Salmond' has a lot to answer for.

**M CLIFF, Wall Heath**

## Rail is not answer to North's ills

AFTER hearing Mr Osborne's announcement describing his vision of bringing prosperity to the North by building more roads and railways, I am convinced more than ever that this government has no idea about how to generate long-term prosperity.

We are constantly being brainwashed into thinking that road and rail networks will solve all our problems. That is typical of the upper middle-class perspective of this government who love to travel whenever possible in order to to maintain their profile in the public eye.

If the Government were serious about bringing prosperity to the North, they should be offering investment incentives to attract hi-tech industries into the old mining communities destroyed by the Tories in the 80s.

Local jobs in modern factories, universities, hospitals and leisure facilities are what we need.

**M CLIFF, Wall Heath**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

**E-MAIL**
Sandwell.chronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Experienced staff are treated badly

I WAS interested to read your article regarding the increase in temporary staffing at the Manor Hospital.

I can only say that it is no wonder this is happening with the way old staff and experienced people are being treated.

Soon there will be none of the old school who know what they are doing in the tried and tested way. Why, just like teachers, nurses are now under daily attack from hostile relatives and patients who seem to have forgotten all manners. Years ago patients used to say 'please' and 'thank you' now you are subjected to phrases like 'get me this, now or get me that, now', no consideration at all.

Added to this if you pull the patients up about this or mention it, the hospital start telling you off about it and expect you to suffer the tirades. And where is this corpulent management – safe behind Trust HQ in a locked room with a buzzer entry system. No wonder they are getting more and more hostility – a few weeks ago one 'solution' to an overcrowded A&E was the suggestion that every ward must have one extra patient sitting in a bay window or day room – totally unsupervised and unsupported!

The story seems the same, management meddle in areas they know nothing about, whilst the staff on the front line are exposed to the fallout because of their mistakes.

**S STROUD, Wednesbury**

## Backing for theatre to be used

I WAS interested to read G Sawers' letter 'Hippo is the ideal venue' in the E&S (July 31). I agree with him entirely, it would be a temporary venue for the Civic and yes, live entertainment is popular these days, as in my opinion it always has been.

There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of a live show. I know entertainers and the public are crying out for the Hippodrome to reopen, and be what it always was: a lovely theatre.

Yes, I have been to the Civic many times and used to go there dancing in my teens. I have appeared in music festivals there, and I have appeared many times at Dudley Hippodrome singing and also at the Grand.

Why in heaven's name can't Dudley Council pull their finger out and listen to people who want this beautiful theatre restored to its former glory, when they would, I know, get packed houses?

**A WILLIAMS, Tipton**

Sam Walker, back left, on a truck in 1943

Sam and Melva Walker on their big day in 1948

Sam Walker, front far right, at Normandy in 2009 for the D-Day commemorations

Melva Walker with her husband Sam's war medals

Samuel Walker in his soldier's uniform in 1946 aged 20

# Legions of tributes due for D-Day hero Samuel as he is laid to rest

**HE was a modest veteran of the Second World War who spoke very little of his experiences.**

And Samuel Ralph Walker will be getting a fitting tribute as members of his Royal British Legion branch hold a guard of honour at his funeral taking place today.

Mr Walker, who died on July 31 aged 90, is being laid to rest at St Mark's Church in Tipton, starting at 2pm, on what would have been his 66th wedding anniversary,

Private Walker served with the South Staffordshire Regiment during the global conflict after being called up at the age of 19, and is thought to have landed in Normandy around three days after D-Day.

But his widow Melva, 87, from Bagnall Street, Tipton, can only speak briefly on his role in the war, as he kept his experiences mainly to himself. She said: "I know when

Special report by Adam Grinsell

they liberated Holland he went through there, and the people were kissing him and all sorts, they were that happy.

"When he went over to Normandy he was in the landings but he didn't go with the first lot, I think he went on about the third or fourth day. He never really bragged about what he did."

Mrs Walker, who put together detonators during the war, believes that for a time when her husband first started he was a 'batman' – someone assigned to an officer as a personal servant or bodyguard.

She added: "From the photographs I've seen I could see that he was on a tank, he didn't drive it but he was on the guns. He never talked about it that much, but I couldn't tell you why. Right up until he died he could always tell you what his service number was – 14228345."

Mr Walker served until 1948 and in the same year married his sweetheart, who he had met during wartime because their siblings, Melva's sister Lily and his brother Bill, were also married.

Whenever he was out on leave, he would visit his brother and sister-in-law and got to know Melva, first becoming friends before they started courting. They were married at St Matthew's Church in Tipton.

As a bricklayer, Mr Walker worked with MEB for 30 years, and retired just before he reached 65. Mrs Walker continued to work on factory lines, spending the majority of her time at Palethorpes sausage makers before they moved out of Tipton.

During their retirement the couple would enjoy holidays together and travelled to northern Europe and Germany, but have never been on a plane.

Mr Walker was born on Christmas Day, one of six children, and in his early years lived on Tame Road in Tipton. He died last month after battling a condition called cervical myelopathy for the past three years, a degenerative condition which pinches the spinal cord.

It is expected that St Mark's will be full today, and members of the Tipton branch of The Royal British Legion, where he was a member, will be providing standard bearers. Mrs Walker said: "Everyone loved him, and everyone down the street knew him."

Friend Hilary Brown first met Mr Walker when he joined a Veterans Club that she founded at ACE Academy in Tipton in around 2004. They attended the D-Day commemorations in Normandy together in 2005 and again in 2009, but unfortunately Mr Walker was too ill to attend the 70th anniversary this year. Mrs Brown is now helping Mrs Walker to apply for the Legion d'Honneur in her husband's name, which is being handed out to veterans of the D-Day landings by the French government, although the process could take up to a year.


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# Joy as total for jobless falls across the region

## Troupe scoops trophies

**Avia Dance Academy students celebrate their huge haul of trophies from the recent UKA dance championships. Front L to R: Brodie Bennett, 16, teacher Jade Turner, Linzi Jacques, 15, back L to R: Elli**

A DANCE academy's students came top in almost half of all performances at a recent competition.

The dancers at Tipton and West Bromwich-based Avia Academy picked up seven first-place trophies out of 16 performances at the UKA Midlands competition in Walsall.

Around 90 students took part in street dance and cheer performances. And their other performances saw them finish second, third or fourth.

Dance teacher Jade Turner, aged 27, said: "I was really proud of them, they danced really well and handled the day brilliantly."

On Saturday, the students will be putting on a fundraising show to cash to buy costumes, and to help pay for a group that is heading to Disney Land Paris to perform as part of one of its famous parades.

That event is taking place at Darlaston All Active on Willenhall Road from 5pm, with donations welcome on the door. To join, youngsters can call Jade on 07870 738826.

**UNEMPLOYMENT in the West Midlands fell by 3,000 to 210,000 between April and June , as job queues shrank across the region.**

Nationwide unemployment was down 132,000 to 2.08 million, and Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted: "Very good news on employment: two million new private sector jobs since 2010, and a record fall in unemployment."

He added: "Youth unemployment has also fallen by 206,000 over past year – the largest drop since records began. Our long-term economic plan is working."

Meanwhile, the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the UK is on course to dip below a million for the first time in six years.

Across the West Midlands the claimant count has been brought down by 42,952 over the last year to 107,043 in July.

### Population

Across the Black Country boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell, the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance was 32,061 last month, down by more than 800 on June's total.

At Wolverhampton JobCentre, engagement manager Cathy Taylor said: "This is the most positive time we have seen for recruitment since 2008."

In Wolverhampton the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in July was down by 184 to 9,117, or 5.7 per cent of the city's population – still more than double the average UK claimant rate of 2.4 per cent. In Walsall the claimant count was down by 251 to 6,769, or four per cent.

In Dudley the count fell 163 to 6,964, or 3.6 per cent, while in neighbouring Wyre Forest and Kidderminster it was down by 79 to 1,216.

In Sandwell it was down by 229 to 9,211, or 4.7 per cent, while in Birmingham it fell 463 to 35,901, or 5.1 per cent.

Ninder Johal, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "This is very encouraging news. I am taking the latest statistics as a signal that at last growth is leading to more jobs."


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# Triathlete misses birth to cross the finish line

**IT is the miracle of life – a moment witnessed daily across the world.**

But one fitness fanatic missed the birth of his baby daughter, because he was taking part in one of the country's toughest triathlons.

Bharat Rai, from Berkshire Crescent in Wednesbury, had always wanted to do an event like the Outlaw Triathlon in Nottingham, which involves a 2.4-mile swim and a 112-mile bike ride, finished off by a marathon.

Bharat, aged 37, and an engineer, said: "When my wife found out she was pregnant I had committed to the event.

"The doctors gave the due date and we found out it was four days after the triathlon, on July 31. We had a sit down and a chat, considering that it might all happen on the one day, so we had to put a plan B and C in place.

"Seema understood all the training I had put in already, and she said she would get her mum and sister in to fill in for me if it happened while I was away. And of course that's what happened."

## Hospital

Two days ahead of the event Bharat had packed his bags and was getting ready for an early night. But shortly after getting in to bed Seema told him her waters had broken.They headed to hospital, where doctors told them to go home as the baby was not ready. After a few hours' sleep Bharat headed up to Nottingham to register.

He said: "I got back to my hotel room to get some sleep as the event started at 6am, but I couldn't really sleep. Then she phoned me at 10.50pm saying she had given birth to a lovely baby girl. I was ecstatic and couldn't get to sleep for quite a while, even though I had to be up at 3am.I was considering driving back home to see the baby, but I realised I wouldn't get any sleep at all."

Bharat Rai with children Aryan and Aaliya, wife Seema and newborn Nirvana

He added: "I knew I was going to hit the wall at some point and I needed something to get me through. So Seema sent me a photo. Nirvana looked beautiful. I kept that in my head, and during the cycle ride when I really started to struggle, my legs were like jelly, that picture kept me going."

He eventually made it around the course in 14 hours and 28 minutes, and his other two children, eight-year-old Aryan and Aaliya, six, were there to run him across the line, as well as his niece Alyssia, aged three.

He met his daughter for the first time the day after the event on July 27.

Seema added: "A few of my relatives were saying I couldn't let him miss the birth, but I've seen the hard work that he's put in. And with his training and what the kids had missed out on with him while he was doing that, I wasn't going to let him put all that to waste."

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# Churchyard clear-up volunteers wanted

**Volunteers Matthew Barnett, aged 17, and Roy Jones, who is the community ambassador for Yew Tree and Great Barr**

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help tidy up an overgrown church yard in West Bromwich.

It is the latest in a string of similar appeals, with graves at St Giles in Rowley Regis and Bloxwich Cemetery also said to be in a shabby state. A small team of eager helpers has already begun work to clear up wild plants and weeds in the grounds of All Saints Church in All Saints Way.

But they now need extra pairs of hands as the job has become too big for them to do alone.

Volunteer Roy Jones, aged 70, is appealing for more people to come forward to help with the work.

He's particularly keen to uncover some of the war graves in the grounds which have long been out of sight.

Volunteers are at the churchyard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and people are invited to pop along if they are able to help and bring gardening tools with them. Mr Jones said they had received help from Sandwell Council and were hoping to get a grant through the Big Spring Clean campaign to fund more gardening equipment.

# Hoardings may be on their way next to M6

**NEW giant advertising hoardings are poised to be built next to the M6 despite fears they would cause a distraction and increase the risk of accidents.**

The two 50ft high illuminated screens are earmarked to go next to the busy motorway between junctions nine at Wednesbury and 10 at Walsall.

They will be in a V-shape and can be taken by companies for advertising, replacing an existing hoarding on land between Ikea and the Chestnut Tree pub. The Highways Agency and Sandwell Council have both objected to the proposal for the structure which will be up to 60ft wide.

However, members of Walsall Council's planning committee were yesterday being recommended to approve the application on the land near to the Gallagher Retail Park.

There are a series of signs alongside the stretch of the M6 including one outside the Banks's Stadium. It was made digital last year sparking complaints from residents.

The Highways Agency has now raised concerns over the latest application

**By Craig Hughes**

stating the motorway is already a common hotspot for shunts and unnecessary distractions will exacerbate the problem.

Around 160,000 motorists a day use the busy section and the Highways Agency say it and would be close to a gantry at junction nine and there is already a poor safety record with collisions above the national average.

Sandwell Council has also objected and in a statement to planning officers, said: "The substantial illuminated sign would appear as an unduly prominent structure, isolated and unrelated to its surroundings. We are also concerned it would adversely affect the amenities of some residents."

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# Mini-hats all for Age UK campaign

Carol Wilson and Sue Davies ready for the Age UK Knitathon Challenge 2014 at the Age UK offices in Bull St, West Bromwich

KNITTERS in Sandwell are being urged to get out their needles and create thousands of mini hats.

The area's Age UK group is taking part in the annual Big Knit event run by Innocent Smoothies.

Each year, the drinks company invites people to knit small hats which are then placed on their bottles.

For each bottle sold, 25p is donated to Age UK's Spread the Warmth campaign, helping older people during the cold winter months.

Knitters can choose from a number of designs which were posted on the Big Knit website and will be able to see their hats on smoothie bottles from next February.

Age UK is overseeing the project in Sandwell and throughout August and September, libraries across Sandwell will be asking their knitting groups to knit hats.

People can donate their knitted hats to the Age UK office in Bull Street, West Bromwich by October 10, hats can also be collected by Age UK if required.

For more details call Sue Davies or Carol Wilson on 0121 500 1860.

# Jail for axe threat raiders

**THREE robbers have been jailed for a string of terrifying raids on victims, including a boy of nine who had an axe held over his head.**

Gavin Hunt and brothers Christopher and Jamie Dixon targeted homes and businesses across the region. The robberies included a raid on a house in Newton Road, Great Barr, on January 12, 2013. Rajinder Auluk was at home with his family when two men smashed through his front door and demanded the keys for his Nissan Pulsar GTR and Mercedes CLK.

Mr Auluk's nine-year-old son tried to hide behind the sofa, but one of the men grabbed him and held an axe above his head. The men got away in the Nissan, but left the Mercedes.

Hunt, of Kelynmead Road, Tile Cross, Birmingham, Christopher Dixon of Greenfinch Road, Castle Bromwich, and Jamie Dixon of Auckland Drive, Smithswood, were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court. Hunt admitted conspiracy to rob relating to seven raids. Christopher admitted conspiracy to rob relating to six raids, and Jamie admitted the offence in relation to a raid at a home in Northampton.

Hunt, aged 41, received two sentences of 12 years and 10 months, to run concurrently. Jamie Dixon, 32, was sentenced to eight years and 10 months as a 'dangerous offender', meaning he must serve two thirds of his sentence before being eligible for parole. Christopher Dixon, 29, was jailed for seven years and three months.

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# Tamsin offers help to those who help others

**NHS staff help when people are ill or injured, but as they are only human, who looks after them when they are hurt or unwell? Enter Dr Tamsin Radford who steps up to help the helpers.**

Tamsin, aged 37, from Bewdley, Worcestershire, is a medical consultant and Head of Occupational Health and Wellbeing at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. Her job encompasses a wide variety of roles.

She explains: "I spend around half of my time in clinic seeing staff of this and other organisations, who have health problems relating to work.

"I am also in charge of the health and wellbeing programme in the trust, and teach junior doctors occupational health medicine, working closely with human resources on staff sickness absence."

## Pivotal

Tamsin's career has come full circle in her career.

After starting with the trust as a junior doctor, she spent time working at other hospital trusts and a spell at Jaguar Land Rover, before returning four years ago as a consultant.

A pivotal moment she describes as a career highlight.

Even after being in the role for a number of years, she is still passionate about her work.

She said: "I am driven by being able to improve the health and wellbeing of the workforce and to work with my fantastic team."

Tamsin helps a diverse range of patients with different ailments in her role.

She has a wide and extensive knowledge of a variety of illnesses and injuries.

## NHS HEROES

**ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.**

**It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.**

**Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations. This week we highlight:**

**DR TAMSIN RADFORD**
**Consultant and Head of Occupational Health and Wellbeing**

She explained: "I see a lot of muscle and skeletal problems and different psychiatric problems, but on top of this I also see patients with very rare conditions.

"It is hard to keep up to date with everything, but I know that I am not normally the only doctor treating a patient, so there is support if I need it."

Tamsin enjoys all aspects of her job, but she particularly enjoys liaising with the HR team.

She commented: "I love working with human resources as it is a chance to spend time with people outside clinical work and who have a different view on life."

There are still challenges ahead for Tamsin.

She said: "We have recently taken on an extensive new contract, where we will deliver our excellent clinical service – I am working on the detail of that currently – and the planning for this year's flu campaign is well underway."

Away from work Tamsin enjoys swimming and baking, as well as spending time with psychiatrist husband Steve and her four stepchildren Hope, Lydia, Madeline and Niall.

She also loves to visit New Zealand to see her sister, and has plans to visit this year.

Tamsin has two heroes who have inspired her.

One is Yvette Cooper MP and the other is Lesley Barnett, the Trust's Deputy Director of Workforce.

She said: "I admire Yvette Cooper because she is a really intelligent strong woman and Lesley because she taught me everything about management."

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# Jodie will start off run in city

DOUBLE Commonwealth gold medal winner Jodie Stimpson will be an official starter at this year's Bupa Great Birmingham Run.

The 25-year-old from Oldbury, who won both individual and team triathlon golds for England at the Glasgow games, will be at the start line to see off those taking part.

She said: "I'm delighted to have been asked to be involved in such a fantastic event like this. Last year I ran it with my mum and I was amazed at the turn-out and the amount of support around the course."

The 13.1-mile run takes place on October 19. Now in its fourth year, the Bupa Great Birmingham Run is the second biggest half marathon in the country. Last year, a record 20,000 entered.

Visit www.greatrun.org/birmingham for details.

# Smyths store opens doors

A NEW toy superstore has opened up on a busy retail park in Oldbury.

Toy retailer Smyths has around 68 stores nationwide including units in Walsall, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The firm opened the store on the Oldbury Green Retail Park, off Oldbury Ringway.

It has joined other well known names including Argos, Homebase and Poundland at the retail park.

## FOCUS ON OLDBURY

# MP's backing over power line work nearing finish

**AN MP has met National Grid chiefs to witness the replacement of Black Country power lines and learn more about the multi-million pound investment in the network.**

For the last seven months, National Grid has been replacing a 5.5 mile (9km) section of the 16-mile (26km) power line which stretches from Bustleholme in West Bromwich to Oldbury.

**By John Corser**

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey heard that in order to replace the electricity lines safely, the National Grid project team have had to work over people's gardens, across motorways, and around places of worship.

Where possible, engineers accessed the lines using cranes and scaffolding, but they have also had to use a technique called SkySafe, which involves an engineer moving across the power line in a cradle deploying a self-supporting system.

The refurbishment project is now nearing an end, with some replanting of grassland scheduled for autumn 2014.

James Dear, project engineer said: "It's a priority to keep our electricity network at the top of its class. Refurbishing these circuits was seen as a great challenge and we are delighted that through the investment in new technologies and the talent of our engineers we have safely reached this key project milestone."

The project, which involved building a new pylon in Wednesbury, means that National Grid will not need to update the route for another 40 years.

Mr Bailey, who went along to see the final stage of the project, said: "The National Grid is vital to providing power for millions of homes and businesses throughout the Black Country every day. Without an efficient power distribution network everyone would have problems.

"I was impressed with the scale of this operation and the skilful way in which physical obstacles were handled. In addition the company has worked well with local communities to ensure their support and good will despite inconveniences the work may have caused."

Youngsters taking part in thecommunity fun day at the children's centre

# Children in Eid event at centre

CHILDREN celebrated Eid with a community fun day in the Black Country.

Family Action's Oldbury Children's Centre held the event at St John's Church on St John's Road and featured a performance from Birmingham-based performing arts organisation The Dhol Empire alongside free activities for children.

The activities included crafts, cooking, face painting, a bouncy castle and Mehndi, also known as Henna.

Early years manager for the centre Karen Gibbons said: "It was an absolutely wonderful day and it was great to see so many people coming out and joining in with the activities."

The Children Centre's volunteers and local businesses had stalls on the day selling a variety of cakes, food, flowers and beauty products.

There were also various information stalls.

# 100 sign petition on buses

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition urging a bus operator to rethink plans to revise services. Passengers have voiced concerns after 12 routes were changed under a shake-up of services in Dudley and Sandwell.

National Express implemented the changes last month but residents' have spoken about their shock at the move with some roads previously served by regular buses being missed out altogether.

Stephanie Peacock, Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, has written to bosses at the bus operator and transport authority Centro asking for clarity on the decision.

She said: "One of the problems is that the residents feel that National Express could have talked to the people a bit more."

# Celebration over canals

TIPTON Canal and Community Festival takes place on September 20 and 21. The seventh annual event is being staged by Tipton Community Association which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Activities will be taking place in the town centre, Coronation Gardens and Neptune Health Park from 11am to 5pm each day.

Visitors will be able to take trips on narrowboats and watch working boat displays.

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# Ambulance chiefs back adrenaline study start

**A MEDICAL trial that could see more patients surviving a cardiac arrest has won the backing of West Midlands Ambulance Service.**

Officials say while the numbers of people who suffer a cardiac arrest are relatively small, the survival rate for an episode out of hospital is just eight per cent. Guidelines used by all ambulance services recommend giving adrenaline during resuscitation.

But there are concerns the drug may cause severe brain damage and may not help overall survival at all.

Warwick Medical School is leading a new trial of around 8,000 patients this autumn after concerns over adrenaline were raised.

During the study ambulance staff in the West Midlands, as well as London, Wales, and on the south coast and north-east of England will inject roughly half of the the patients with adrenaline and the others with a salt solution placebo.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said the work could ultimately save the lives of 'hundreds of patients'. But there have been some concerns given as patients taking part in the study will be unable to give consent as they will be unconscious during treatment.

**by Andrew Turton**

Paramedics and other clinical staff will also be unaware which patients received the placebo.

West Midlands Ambulance Service medical director Dr Andy Carson said: "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation will still be used as normal in the treatment of cardiac arrest.

"Unfortunately, there have been a number of misunderstandings about the trial which have led to unnecessary concern for a number of patients.

"It is therefore important to note that patients with other conditions requiring adrenaline, such as anaphylaxis, will continue to receive the adrenaline that they need.

# Life-saving gear is put in Asda stores

**Anne Foley, the West Midlands Ambulance Trust's community defibrillator facilitator, left ,with members of staff**

IF you shop at Asda in the Black Country, now, you can be safe in the knowledge that there will be someone on hand, if you drop.

Defibrillators are being installed in all of Asda's stores throughout the country in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation.

Anne Foley, the West Midlands Ambulance Trust's community defibrillator facilitator, has been training Asda staff in all 14 stores in the Black Country.

Andy Jeynes, the Trust's Community Response Manager, said: "Anne has worked really hard to get all 14 stores up and running with their new defibrillators.

"If a customer or staff member were to ever suffer a cardiac arrest, each store now has a number of staff trained to use the device and administer CPR. "Early CPR increases the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest and by having a defibrillator in such a busy place like ASDA it can only be a good thing."

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# Fizzogs' Riverdance see flow of hits

Comedy troupe the Fizzogs seen in their latest dancing grannies video, Riverdance, with Michael Flatulence

THEY are at it again – the internet's favourite 'dancing grannies' have performed another routine. As voted for by Express & Star readers, comedy troupe the Fizzogs are this time jigging to Michael Flatley's Riverdance. They will be hoping to hit web stardom again as the four 'old' women Irish dance their way around a school's courtyard.

And this time the Dudley-based quartet, made up of Susan Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls and Emma Rollason, are joined by their very own Lord of the Dance, dubbed Michael Flatulence, who appears in the video wearing a mullet and 'Gornal' written around his belly button, but very little else. In real life he is fellow comic James Collins, who has appeared as 'Hans' in the some of the troupe's previous videos.

The performers already have millions of fans around the world after their dance routines went viral on YouTube, particularly a performance at Stourbridge Carnival which netted them more than 2.7 million likes on Facebook. That routine saw them shuffling around to Flo Rida's Low and Beyonce's Single Ladies.

The 'grannies' are now in talks with TV producers across the Atlantic after the viral success of their dancing exploits.

# £589k bill for police injuries

**COMPENSATION and legal fees for police officers injured in the line of duty – including two bitten by dogs – cost the West Midlands force £589,000 in a year, figures have shown.**

There were 26 officers who shared £328,100 of compensation while legal bills for the cash-strapped service came to £260,900.

The TaxPayers' Alliance has questioned the payouts and legal costs saying the police force is either not doing its job or paying out too quickly on 'spurious' claims.

Information published on the West Midlands Police website shows two cases of officers being injured by a dog bite. Their compensation was £5,100 between them but the legal bill came to £35,600. Five were hurt because of 'slips and trips', racking up £173,500 of compensation and £35,500 in legal costs. Another five were injured in 'training', costing £72,500 in legal bills and £100,300 in compensation.

Lifting and handling injuries cost £56,200 for four officers - £20,500 in damages and £35,700 in legal costs. Defective equipment left four officers receiving damages of £10,700 on top of £24,100 of legal costs while actions of 'third parties' resulted in three officers receiving £28,000 in compensation and £24,400 of costs. Three other officers' injuries were classed as 'other' and resulted in £62,500 of compensation and £33,100 of legal bills.

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# Poppies star behind music for film epic

ANDREW TURTON talks to a former pop star turned Hollywood film composer from Pedmore

Pop Will Eat Itself during their glory days with Clint second from left

Russell Crowe as Noah in the biblical epic now on DVD

**HE is a Black Country lad done good but trips to Molineux and a pint of Bathams are few and far between nowadays for Clint Mansell.**

Instead the former Pop Will Eat Itself frontman is in demand from Hollywood film directors to work on soundtracks for their latest big budget epic.

It was back in the late 1980s and early 1990s that he first found fame though. Once known for sporting flowing long locks, his band helped put the Black Country on the music map. They were part of a popular music scene alongside other bands like The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin.

But now Clint has swapped the UK to LA and has forged a new career as a sought after composer.

His long-standing partnership with director Darren Aronofsky saw the pair work on modern classics such as Requiem for a Dream, The Wrestler and Black Swan. The latter starred Natalie Portman, who won best actress at the Oscars for her role in the film which revolves around Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. It also scooped Clint a nomination at the Grammy's in 2012 for best score soundtrack.

Some of his music from the film Requiem for a Dream is also used on the X factor. The piece called Lux Aeterna is what the judges walk out on stage to.

Their latest collaboration, the biblical epic Noah, featuring awarding winning actors Russell Crowe and Anthony Hopkins, has topped the US box office. Clint's score helps tell one of the world's best known stories as the movie has just hit the UK's stores on DVD and Blu-Ray.

You would think his life was all glamorous parties rubbing shoulders with Hollywood stars but the 51-year-old composer, who grew up in Pedmore, shuns the limelight to allow his work to speak for itself.

## Fortunate

"I'm very fortunate in my life, I've never had any real jobs, I've always been a musician. Being able to write and record your own music with great musicians is a dream come true," he said.

"I don't really do any of the awards stuff. I'm already working on the next thing."

He did travel out to Iceland to visit the set on Noah but admitted he felt 'in the way' and left the cast to it while he enjoyed the trip.

"It did help me get me into the mindset of the film but I think it is as much about trying to immerse yourself in the subject matter and there is so much out there that you can find for yourself as inspiration," he said.

"I didn't really think of it in terms of a biblical story, instead it was more of an end of the world event so I just approached it as a post apocalyptic dystopia story and if you take it literally, God, or the creator as it is called in the film, is ending the world, which is a pretty scary thought.

"The great difference with this film was the pressure. Every film is going to be different. It's a learning curve all the time."

Clint's said: "I first heard David Bowie when I was about seven or eight and I was just blown away by that. That is what I wanted to do. Then there was Ramones, Sex Pistols and The Clash."

The former King Edward VI College student was a member of the group which eventually became known as Pop Will Eat Itself.

Known to fans as The Poppies, the band scored a string of top 40 singles and four top 40 albums and were part of the 'grebo' scene.

"We just stuck at it. We went on Top of the Pops, toured the world and basically spent our 20s having the best laugh and the best time. I wouldn't change that for the world," said Clint whose family, including his parents Marilyn and Donald, still live in the town.

He records many of the soundtracks in London which affords him time to travel back to the Midlands for some home comforts.

"I love coming back to Stourbridge. The beer's the best. Can't beat a Bathams," he said.

Movie soundtrack composer Clint Mansell formerly of Pop Will Eat Itself

When the Poppies disbanded in 1996, Clint moved out to America where he lived in New York and New Orleans and met Aronosky.

He was living in LA by 2001 when he started getting more film work but said: "It took me about three years to find my feet. But the thing that helped me settle was they tarted showing the Premier League over here. Then Wolves got promoted that year and that gave me a real taste of home in LA and it was really important to me."

Clint admits he does not go to many gigs any more but he says he is listening to more music than ever before including the new incarnation of Pop Will Eat Itself, who recently played their first home town concert in almost 30 years. The group now features one original member in drummer/vocalist Graham Crabb.

The original group, which released five albums, briefly reformed in 2005. The latest incarnation started in 2011 and released album New Noise Designed by a Sadist. New members included vocalist Mary Byker, formerly with Gaye Bykers On Acid, Apollo 440 and Pigface; guitarist Tim Muddiman, who has played with Gary Numan; drummer Jason Bowld, once with Killing Joke, and bass player Davey Bennett. Meanwhile, Clint is planning some solo shows later this year in London and Manchester.

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Mr Haden–Best in a unknown location – sometime n between 1898 and 1903

Emily Bryant seen sitting on a fence in a field

Mr Haden-Best pictured in his finery on a day out in the countryside with friends

# Illustrious family's Victorian snapshots

Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath, as it looks today

Visitor services officer Alison Hyatt with one of the pictures

**RELAXING in the sun, having a picnic in the garden and holidaying by a river – these are the candid personal photos of one of the Black Country's most illustrious families.**

The remarkable pictures were unearthed by a collector who bought a box full of original glass plates with 'Haden Hill' written on them at an auction in Leominster.

The adopted daughters of George Alfred Haden Haden-Best, who built the stately home Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath, are the main focus of the photographs, but Mr Haden-Best himself can be seen in some of the shots.

Alice Cockin and Emily Bryant can be seen on holiday, beside lakes, on rolling hills, as well as at home. The pictures offer a fascinating insight into the life and times of the rich Victorian family.

An exhibition, called Forgotten

## MEMORY LANE

by John Pritchard

Moments, has been set up at the stately home, which now acts as the Haden Hill House Museum after the Haden Hill Historical Society successfully bid in the region of £700 for the collection on auction site eBay.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer, said: "The pictures are fascinating, and very important for us.

"It's really interesting to see these pictures with them being so informal, it shows that they spent a lot of their time doing the same things that we did, such as having picnics, spending time with their family and that sort of thing.

"We think the pictures were taken somewhere around the late 1800s or early 1900s."

Jane Hanney, museum services manager at Sandwell Council, said: "These are unique images as we have so few photographs of Mr Haden Best and his family but to see them in deck chairs and by the seaside is just amazing."

Mr Haden-Best's family owned the area around the house for hundreds of years, and he inherited the estate in 1877. He built Haden Hill House in 1878 and lived in it with the two girls, who were daughters of local families, and his aunt, Mrs Barrs, who the road the house sits on is named after.

In his later life, he was a businessman, earning money from rent on properties he owned in the area, and also from stocks and shares he owned, including some in the Great Western Railway company. He was also given £55,000 compensation, equivalent to millions of pounds in today's money, by a mining company who wanted to mine under some of his land.

The girls had an upper-class lifestyle, and while Alice married, Emily stayed with Mr Hayden-Best until his death in 1921. The house is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 5pm and weekends from 2-6pm. For details visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums

Alice and John Shaw outside Haden Hall – part of the exhibition

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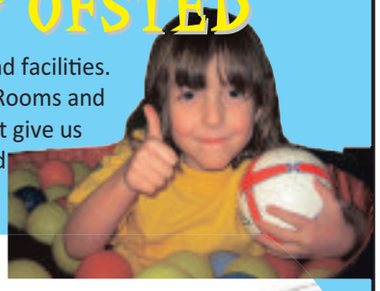

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# Monkeys, Merlin and models too

Books for Teens

**AN ARTICLE in a local newspaper, The Chronicle, alerts plucky teenager Zoe Marshall to strange goings-on at the local safari park and other bizarre occurrences in her Midlands town.**

This is the plot for **Monkey Puzzler** (Matador, paperback, £7.99, ebook, £2.99) by West Bromwich-born author Phil Tomlinson. It marks a second book in a trilogy by the Albion fan and former youth worker now based near Coalville, following his first children's novel The Soul Snatcher.

But Monkey Puzzler can be enjoyed as a stand alone title, a science fiction thriller with echoes of Invasion of the Body Snatchers that involves the malign influence of a computer game and an alien invasion threat.

Recently voted the most popular book with older children in Dudley, **The Poison Boy** (Chicken House, paperback, £6.99) is a gothic fantasy about orphan Dalton Fly, a 'Poison Boy' who tastes food for the rich and powerful who fear they may be under threat.

When Dalton nearly dies from poisoning, and his best friend is not so lucky, he determines to find the killer with the help of the high-born girl whose life he saved. But this leads him into greater danger.

Poison Boy is an exciting, stylish thriller which won The Times Children's Fiction Competition as well as this year's Dudley Teenage Book Award.

Can a geek really be chic? That's the question for Harriet Manners in **Geek Girl: Picture Perfect** (Harper Collins, hardback, £12.99, ebook available) with the accidental model now heading for New York to take a bite out of the Big Apple fashion scene. It's the third book in the popular series aimed at teenagers by Holly Smale, herself a former teenaged model with a BA in English Literature from Bristol University.

The striking cover to West Bromwich author Phil Tomlinson's Monkey Puzzler

The Young Knights travel to San Francisco in a bid to persuade the wizard Merlin to join their cause but find the magic man has reinvented himself as a digital entrepreneur and isn't so keen to help them create a new Round Table. Meanwhile, King Oberon plots a final assault on Earth with his Fey army.

The Young Knights are a kind of Arthurian Percy Jackson, having fun blending myth with the modern age, and young fans will delight in this final part of Julia Golding's trilogy. **Young Knights: Merlin** (Oxford University Press, paperback, £6.99, ebook available) is a sequel to Young Knights of the Round Table and Pendragon by the Oxford-based former diplomat.

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# Lenny is in a spin over his debut at The Rep

ACTOR and comedian Lenny Henry will be going back to his roots when he takes to the stage at the Birmingham Rep theatre next month.

He is starring in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records, a poignant comedy set in a record shop in Birmingham. It is based on the popular BBC Radio 4 series, written by Danny Robins and co-created by Dudley-born Lenny.

The show will run from September 4 to 20 and tells the story of the shop, stacked with vinyl, owned by the irrepressible Rudy Sharpe, played by Larrington Walker, reluctantly helped out by son Adam, played by Lenny.

With Rudy's chaotic approach of 'if it ain't on the shelf, it's on the floor' clashing with Adam's need for calm and order, the record shop soon becomes a battleground of bickering played out to the shop's foot-tapping reggae and soul soundtrack.

But when the threat of developers looms, father and son must put their differences aside as they battle to keep the music alive. It features music by Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker, Bob Marley and the Sugarhill Gang.

Lenny said: "I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at the Rep

# Musical diversity on show at centre

Lee Ford

Leah Jaine Astbury

Jon Hubbard

Sophie Watts

## LIVE REVIEW

By Danny Farragher

**Baddies' Boogie**
**Newhampton Arts Centre**

THE Newhampton Arts Centre in Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton once again played host to the latest collection of talented acoustic musicians from around the Midlands under the banner of Baddies' Boogie.

The bill opener was singer/songwriter Lee Ford from Stafford.

Ford is a pretty cool, laid back singer and guitarist who performs his own ballads. His songs and guitar technique are solid and impeccable; simple but effective and he has an honest and likeable voice.

He looks and plays like an ordinary bloke, he doesn't have the most powerful or a particularly standout voice but he doesn't try to imitate or sound like anything other than he is, which is extremely refreshing. His performance was followed by Walsall's Leah Jaine Astbury another singer guitarist.

Astbury has a good strong voice which has a definite clarity and you get the sense that with her seemingly effortless singing she has unlimited vocal power to call upon.

Astbury did do a lovely cover of Sam Smith's Stay With Me where she showed she definitely has soul in her voice and there is a good range in there. She hit the high notes without any effort and she could have probably held them until doomsday had she needed to. The former Shire Oak and Walsall College student went out with a pretty emotive version of Bob Dylan's much covered Make You Feel My Love.

Also from Walsall, although, in complete contrast, was Jon Hubbard who certainly has some personality with his cheeky chappie stage persona. He speaks with a broad, local accentand his singing style seems to be a mixture of many influences which range from sounding like one of the Gallaghers to a weird Jaifakecan sound.

Hubbard started off with Walking to the End of the World and it did have that Britpop sound to it. He does have a lively, catchy way of performing which is infectious and while he does sound like a lot singers he doesn't sound like one individual.

Next up was Andy Bowater aka The Rambling Man, possibly because he never stays still while performing, not only does he swing from side to side to the beat of his playing but he also repeatedly walks up and downstage.

Bowater's was definitely the most unusual act of the night. With a percussionist/vocalist and an electric guitarist, whom he never introduced, he produced a sound which was something akin to a set produced by the BBC radiophonic workshop.

The sound problems which dogged the night were clearly evident with the act finishing off, Midnight Sun, which is Sophie Watts from Stourbridge and Kidderminster's Jack Cleaver.

In their opener Cleaver's guitar playing just blew Watts' singing off the stage. It was not Cleaver's fault, he is a verygood guitarist. Watts has a standout voice but even she struggled to hold her own against the whacked up sound of Cleaver's guitar. It was unfortunate really the sound was not right on the night because once again Baddies produced a bill,which reaffirmed there is a great pool of young and diverse talent right here in the Midlands.

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## DANCE

**An appearance on X Factor as a backing dancer for Rita Ora was swiftly followed by an offer from one of the UK's finest performing arts colleges for Simeon.**
He successfully auditioned for a place at the prestigious Urdang Academy in London - a leading dance school with many recent graduates in lead West End roles.

Simeon Beckett

## COMPUTING – CLASS OF 2014

**Congratulations to this year's two Computing & IT Students of the Year who completed their qualifications with a total of 18 distinctions and are now preparing to become computer science university undergraduates in September.**
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Millinery talent came off tops this year for a caring fashion student who raised £520 for charity.
HNC Fashion & Textiles student Claire Beaumont put her creative skills to good use on Wear a Hat day, designing and hand-stitching a flamboyant series of head gear to raise money for Brain Tumour Research.

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"Teaching and learning are good, and often outstanding."

SCHOOL LEAVERS:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY

THE BIG DEAL

Free Bus Pass
for EVERY full-time 16-18 year-old student*

Financial Support and Free Meals
for disadvantaged students**

*Subject to attendance and performance. **Subject to qualifying criteria. See website.

ENROLMENT DAYS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday | 21st August | 12pm-7pm |
| Tuesday | 26th August | 12pm-7pm |
| Wednesday | 27th August | 10am-8pm |
| Thursday | 28th August | 10am-8pm |
| Friday | 29th August | 10am-4pm |
| Saturday | 30th August | 10am-2pm |
| Monday | 1st September | 10am-8pm |
| Tuesday | 2nd September | 10am-8pm |

CentralCampus
Sandwell College

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For more information call 0800 622 006 or visit
www.sandwell.ac.uk

## MEN INTO CARE – JOIN A HEALTHY INDUSTRY

**Demand is rising all the time for male workers to train to work in the ever-popular care sector. Experts forecast Health, Social Work and Residential Care will be the top three industries by 2020. Be ready for the rush of employment opportunities, let us prepare you for a rewarding and fulfilling career, and start your qualifications now.**

### Careers in Demand:

- Social workers
- Ambulance staff
- Healthcare practice managers for medical, dental and veterinary practices
- Childminders
- Nursing auxiliaries
- Teaching assistants
- Senior care workers
- Nursery nurses
- Public health managers and directors
- Child/early years officers

Ofsted says: **"Learning is enjoyable, interesting and successfully led by well qualified and enthusiastic teachers."**

World Skills team

## CHILDCARE

**Inspirational and creative learning experiences make Childcare a great course choice for you. Traditional classroom-style teaching has been transformed with innovative chat rooms in the virtual college environment.**
**There are so many opportunities for work experience and practical placements, in all kinds of care settings, so students can develop professional skills and be career-ready.**
Extra support is available if you need more help with your learning, both in and out the classroom. And you can also discover original approaches to progressing children's potential on visits to a variety of sites, from free-thinking schools in Italy's Reggio Emilia to teaching nature at the Forest Schools outdoor learning experience.

## HAIRDRESSING

**One Hairdressing student is about to discover if she has made the final cut after competing in the WorldSkills UK regional live heat.**
**Claire Tidman went through four and a half hours of gruelling tests by a judging panel from industry, colleges and training providers, in the contest managed by L'Oreal Professionnel Products.**
She combined cutting and colouring skills to produce an on-trend commercial look, and dressed long hair during the competition on a pre-coloured mannequin head.
More than 500 entries were whittled down to 137 for the four live qualifying rounds and the top 15 competitors across all heats will go on to compete in national finals at the NEC.

## CONSTRUCTION

**Get the skills that are key to building a rewarding construction career as the economy recovers. You'll see just how many opportunities are open to you when you start a course in Carpentry, Painting & Decorating, Plastering, Plumbing or Tiling. We've got purpose-built training bays in our state-of-the-art facilities to give you the very best start in the industry.**

**Novice carpentry student Rob Hill nailed the bronze slot in the regional heat of SkillBuild 2014 and took bronze medal in the New Entrant Site Carpentry category.**
**Rob, 17, competed alongside fellow Level 1 student and Sandwell team member Michael Lewis. More than 100 college students battled it out in their chosen construction trades. SkillBuild, now in its 40th year, is organised and supported by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry.**

Rob Hill

Ofsted says: **"Students develop very good personal, social and employability skills that prepare them well for further study and for the world of work."**

**For more information call 0800 622 006 or visit**

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# LIVE APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES

WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

**Go to work on one of our apprenticeship schemes and you'll be gaining nationally recognised qualifications, real life experience, excellent career prospects, AND you'll be earning at the same time.**

## It's a win-win situation!

At Central Training we work with hundreds of different businesses and organisations - from household-name companies, the NHS and major retailers, to independent garages, pharmacies and care homes. The employers are often on your doorstep, so you won't have to go miles out of your way.

**ENROL NOW**

Thursday 21st August 12pm-7pm
Tuesday 26th August 12pm-7pm
Wednesday 27th August 10am-8pm
Thursday 28th August 10am-8pm
Friday 29th August 10am-4pm
Saturday 30th August 10am-2pm
Monday 1st September 10am-8pm
Tuesday 2nd September 10am-8pm

## Our Apprenticeships

- Business Administration
- Clinical Healthcare Support
- Customer Service
- Dental Nursing
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care (aged 19+)
- Hospitality
- Leadership and Management
- Light Vehicle Mechanics
- Mechanical, Electrical, Trim (MET)
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Team Leading
- Vehicle Body Repair
- Vehicle Refinishing

## What is an apprenticeship?

Apprentices work and train with an employer for four days a week and study in College for the fifth day. Apprenticeships last for one, two or three years, depending on the level of training you are seeking. Wages start at £2.68 per hour, although many employers choose to pay more.

Ofsted says:

"Apprenticeship provision meets much needed demands from employers."

**Call our team now and tell us why you would make a good apprentice on 0121 667 5018**

CENTRAL TRAINING

Supporting your business
Developing your people

**ENROL NOW**
Thursday 21st August 12pm-7pm
Tuesday 26th August 12pm-7pm
Wednesday 27th August 10am-8pm
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Friday 29th August 10am-4pm
Saturday 30th August 10am-2pm
Monday 1st September 10am-8pm
Tuesday 2nd September 10am-8pm

# Aged 16-18? Your GCSE results are your passport from school to college!

## Your GCSE Results are your passport to your future career. And that starts here at college.

We have students who want to be surgeons, students who want to be carpenters, students who want to work with animals, students who want to work with children, students who want to run businesses, students who want to train athletes, students who want to paint houses, students who want to paint countryside, students who are learning tap fitting and students who are learning tap dancing.

If your school can't offer you the fantastic range of courses and apprenticeships that we can, bring your GCSE results down to Central Campus today, or on any of our enrolment days, and we'll talk to you about what you want to do in life and which of our courses is right for you. **Courses include:**

- A Levels
- Airline Passenger Services Agents
- Animal Care
- Art & Design
- Automotive Mechanics and Bodywork
- Aviation Operations on the Ground
- Barbering
- Beauty Therapy
- Business Studies
- Cabin Crew
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Childcare
- Clinical Health Care Support
- CNC
- Computer Games Design
- Computing
- Engineering
- ESOL
- Fashion
- Foundation Plus
- GCSEs – English, ICT, Mathematics, Science
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Motorsports Engineering
- Multimedia Design, Imaging and Animation
- Multimedia Programming
- Painting & Decorating
- PC Repair
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Public Services – Uniformed
- Sports Studies
- Tiling
- Travel & Tourism
- Web Design

Ofsted says: "Students benefit from the college's excellent teaching, study and social spaces, with very high quality resources and equipment to support learning."

**For more information call 0800 622 006 or visit**

# www.sandwell.ac.uk

CentralCampus
Sandwell College

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AMBITION

# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY FOR A LEVELS

## CENTRAL SIXTH IS AN AMBITIOUS NEW SIXTH FORM FOR BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY.

If you want A Level results that will get you into a good university course and the career of your choice, start by choosing Central Sixth for your sixth form experience.

We are still interviewing students for a September start in Year 12 and A2 transfers to Year 13. Come down to Central Campus (the building with the Big Dipper roof) on any of our Enrolment Days or apply online.

## TEN REASONS TO TALK TO US

**You will be taught by a team of dedicated A Level lecturers who are highly experienced, highly qualified and approachable. All of our teaching staff are A Level specialists with a track record of success and most are experienced examiners.**

**We will give you impartial advice on which A Levels are the right choice for you and what subjects to take for university entrance and the best career prospects.**

**You'll study in an outstanding building with state-of-the-art facilities.**

**You will be studying with like-minded people who want to succeed in their studies and get on in life. We attract students from right across Birmingham and the Black Country.**

**Central Sixth is run separately from the rest of Sandwell College, so that our students will enjoy a distinctive sixth form experience.**

**We offer a very wide range of different academic subjects, all on one site. The choice is yours.**

**Our students are treated like adults. This isn't a school sixth form but a college sixth form, where we help you to develop confidence, independence and responsibility.**

**You will be supported every step of the way by a personal tutor who will make sure you are achieving your goals.**

**Central Sixth has an extensive Advice and Guidance team to help you with university and career choices as well as with study and personal support.**

**We will provide additional support for students who are considering universities such as Oxford, Cambridge or the Russell Group, or challenging careers such as medicine, dentistry, law and veterinary science.**

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Friday 29th August 10am-4pm
Saturday 30th August 10am-2pm
Monday 1st September 10am-8pm
Tuesday 2nd September 10am-8pm

## JOIN US IN OUR FABULOUS NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Students come to Central Sixth from right across the Black Country and Birmingham to improve their university and career prospects. To meet this demand, we are moving into The Public, the unique building in central West Bromwich, which is re-opening in September as a dedicated sixth form centre like no other in the West Midlands.

**85%** OF OUR 2014 STUDENTS **secured university offers by June!** (National Average 63%)

THE BIG DEAL

**Free Bus Pass** for EVERY full-time 16-18 year-old student*

**Financial Support and Free Meals** for disadvantaged students**

*Subject to attendance and performance. **Subject to qualifying criteria. See website.

**For more information call 0800 622006 or visit www.sandwell.ac.uk**

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# Avaricious, dirty, Roma? No way

**ROME, the Eternal City, has in recent years been better known as the expensive city, especially after a Black Country family had a costly experience at an avaricious ice cream parlour.**

However, if you're just a little savvy, then there is no reason why you shouldn't let your road lead to Rome for a memorable and not too pricey visit. Here are some handy tips if you are planning a trip to the great imperial city.

LEON BURAKOWSKI finds all the roads still lead to Rome in his personal guide to the Eternal City

No visit to Rome would be complete without a visit to The Colosseum, perhaps Rome's most awe-inspiring ancient monument. However, the queues to get inside the 2,000-year-old amphitheatre can be huge. A ticket gets you into three attractions — The Palantine Hill and Forum too — so get your three-in-one ticket at the Palantine Hill entrance where the queues are much smaller and, sometimes, there are no queues at all.

## Dome

Don't miss The Pantheon. Originally a temple, now a national shrine containing the tombs of Italian monarchs and heroes, it is a huge concrete dome that even by today's standards is a remarkable feat of architecture. Best of all, it's free admission. The shaft of light through the hole at its summit can be impressive.

The Vatican, a city state within Rome and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, has one of the greatest collection of art treasures in the world and includes the Sistine Chapel festooned with the sublime Old Testament frescoes by Michelangelo. Don't just turn up on the day at the Vatican Museums, the lines are enormous. Buy your ticket online before you even leave the UK and you will be able to jump the queues. Wear comfortable shoes, the museums and magnificent St Peter's, built on the site of St Peter's Tomb, will take at least six hours to fully explore. However, the cafes in the Vatican are reasonably priced, unlike those in the streets leading up to it.

The Capitoline Museum is a must-see if you love art and/or history with its extensive collection of sculptures including most of the Roman Emperors. Highlights include the monumental head of first Christian emperor Constantine and an colossal statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius on horseback which sums up the pomp and power of the empire. Check the concessions available and don't go on a Monday, it's closed. The museum restaurant makes some of the best pizza in Rome.

Not for the squeamish, the crypt at Santa Maria Della Concezione features the remains of more than 4,000 Capuchin monks, from cloaked skeletons to artfully arranged patterns of human bones. It is both macabre and poignant.

The rooftops of the beautiful Eternal City, Rome

## Fountain

Photo opportunity number one is the baroque Trevi Fountain which fills a small square with tourists eager to throw in the coins that guarantee their return to Rome. Nearby, the Spanish Steps with its balustrades and terraces is photo opportunity number two but you will have to put up with flower sellers urging you to pose with a rose at this romantic hotspot.

You can grab a panini from one of the many small shops. For a sit-down meal, head to the historic Jewish ghetto for a delicious blend of Jewish and Italian cuisine at fair prices or head over the River Tiber to Trastevere district where the sheer number of restaurants keeps prices keen.

The official Roma Pass includes admission to two museums plus various concessions for 36 euros.

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# Sandwell Guarantee

## Giving young people opportunity of a job or training

**The Sandwell Guarantee could help up to 4,000 young people aged 16-24 on benefits or not in education, employment or training.**

We are looking for Sandwell residents aged 16-24 years who are looking for an apprenticeship or job opportunity. We are also looking for businesses who would like to employ a young person providing an apprenticeship or job opportunity with learning.

**For further information contact the Think Sandwell team on 0121 569 2099 or visit:**

**www.sandwell.gov.uk/guarantee**

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

## Bluesday gigs at Hockley venue

A SERIES of weekly blues nights have been lined up at a Birmingham venue for the coming months.

The Asylum 2 in Hockley will be hosting the concerts every Tuesday from September 23 to December 16.

The event is being organised by Halesowen-born music mogul Jim Simpson, who once managed Black Sabbath. Mr Simpson said: "Tuesday will be Bluesday, with some of the finest blues bands about, digging into the urban and country Blues of Chicago and The Delta and stopping off at all points between."

The opening party at the venue in Hampton Street will feature The 58's Blues Band. Admission will be £5. Coming up are the Whiskey Brothers and Steve Ajao Blues Giants.

## Civic Hall date for Kaiser Chiefs

V Festival favourites Kaiser Chiefs will be playing at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 6 next year.

Fronted by The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, the Yorkshire band's date is part of a UK tour throughout January and February.

New single My Life is due out on September 22 and will be the third single from their Number One album Education, Education, Education & War.

The band opened Glastonbury 2014, stormed T in The Park and will join the Foo Fighters on a tour of South Africa in December.

Tickets for the Civic gig cost £30.25 or £38.50.

# Disney on Ice to celebrate 100 years of fun and magic

## EofE join Vamps on UK tour

BLACK Country rockers EofE are to support top teen band The Vamps on their autumn UK tour.

"We can't wait to head back out on the road, especially with The Vamps", said Tom Harris, 18, lead singer of the Dudley band. "They're incredibly successful, really accomplished musicians, and the same age as us. I'm looking forward to having a lot of laughs on the road!"

This follows a support slot on the phenomenally successful McBusted arena tour, playing to 380,000 fans across 32 UK dates.

'The McBusted tour was a fantastic break for us," said Tom, from Netherton. "Their fans were really supportive and the band offered us some great advice.'

This week EofE release second single Piece of You. They support The Vamps at the NIA on October 5 and have a headline gig at The Institute in Birmingham on November 15.

Back on the road — Dudley band EofE with singer Tom Harris second from right

**JOIN the celebration as 65 of Disney's unforgettable characters from 18 timeless stories come to life at Birmingham NIA when Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic from the world of Disney.**

With Mickey and Minnie Mouse leading the fun, the show will include spectacular skating routines, elaborate sets and 160 beautiful costumes with ice dancing devised by the choreographer who created the skating segment of the opening ceremony at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The cast of 47 ice dancers represent a total of ten countries.

Disney magic at the NIA

### Dolls

Such Disney musical classics at A Whole New World, Beauty and the Beast and Can You Feel The Love Tonight will feature alongside exciting moments from Mulan, The Lion King and Disney/Pixar's Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, and Toy Story films.

Outfitting this special centenary show has been a huge challenge for the costume department with dazzling designs ranging from Mickey's Marching Band to the 'It's A Small World' dolls that form part of a sparkling light parade. The Finding Nemo outfits will mimic underwater movement. But Minnie promises her red sequin spangled gown will be a real showstopper.

Disney On Ice celebrates 100 Years of Magic will be at The NIA in Birmingham city centre from October 22 to November 2. The tour is also visiting Manchester, Sheffield, London, Glasgow and Newcastle.

The arrival of Disney on Ice has been an annual treat for West Midlands families for several years now but this promises to be an extra special occasion. Tickets are available now and to find out more visit the website www.disneyonice.co.uk or via Facebook and YouTube.

## On way or another Blondie are back

FOLLOWING their comeback at this summer's Glastonbury Festival and scheduled appearance at the V Festival, Blondie will be back in the Midlands for a concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on September 13.

Blondie have sold more than 40 million albums and repeatedly reached the top of the charts over four decades with such hits as Heart Of Glass, Sunday Girl, Atomic, Call Me, The Tide Is High, Rapture and Maria. This year the band has celebrated their 40th anniversary with the NME Godlike Genius Award and release of new album Ghosts of Download. It is available as part of two-disc package Blondie 4(0) Ever, which includes greatest hits and brand new album.

## Revisiting heyday of the Fab Four

FIFTY years on from Beatlemania, Richard Lester's groundbreaking film about the Fab Four, A Hard Day's Night, has been released as a restored special edition Blu-ray and two-disc DVD package.

The movie remains both a sparky comedy, summing up The Beatles' irreverent style, and a snapshot of an England emerging from post-war austerity into the swinging 60s. Alongside the movie, which has a cast ranging from Steptoe and Son's Wilfred Bramble to dancer Lionel Blair, there are several bonus features. These include a documentary, interviews with The Beatles and an audio interview with the film director.

## CHOICE

Peter Capaldi

**Doctor Who (BBC1, 7.50pm)**
New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman, Neve McIntosh, Dan Starkey, Catrin Stewart, Peter Ferdinando, Paul Hickey, Tony Way, Maggie Service, Brian Miller, Ellis George, Mark Kempner, Graham Duff, Peter Hannah and Paul Kasey.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.20** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Castleford Tigers v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

**6.30 Tumble.** The remaining celebrities tackle trampolining and rhythmic gymnastics with a twist in the third week of the competition. They're hoping to impress the judging panel – Louis Smith, Nadia Comaneci, Craig Heap and Sebastien Stella – and the two lowest-scoring contestants then face The Vault, before one of them leaves the show. Plus, girl group the Saturdays perform a medley of their biggest hits. Alex Jones hosts.

**7.50 Doctor Who.** New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman.

**9.10 Casualty.** Zoe is feeling low about her 40th birthday. Cal steals Ethan's idea, Jeff thinks he is being followed, while Rita's behaviour starts to worry her colleagues. Last in the series.

**10.00 The National Lottery Live.**

**10.10 BBC News**; Weather.

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Leicester City at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update.

**11.50 The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

**1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.35** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – First Practice. **8.15** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Second Practice. **9.55** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Third Practice. **11.10** Coast. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. **12.00** David Lean: Talking Pictures. **12.40 Film:** In Which We Serve. (1942) Second World War drama, starring Noel Coward. **2.30** Escape to the Country. **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** Triathlon.

**7.00 Proms Extra.** Jazz singer Clare Teal chats about her role in the Battle of the Bands concert, and Katie Derham is also joined by conductor Sascha Goetzel and composer Mark-Anthony Turnage.

**7.45 Dad's Army.** A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring have an unusual dream in which he is Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

**8.15 Ancient Egypt: Life and Death in the Valley of the Kings.** Egyptologist Joann Fletcher looks at the lives of ordinary Egyptian citizens 3,500 years ago. In the first of two programmes, she explores the conditions of their tightly packed houses, how they dressed and what they ate. Joann also examines their love of poetry, their enthusiasm for interior design and what it was like to work in the Valley of the Kings. (R)

**9.15 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation.** The life of Walter Scott, the prolific novelist and poet who wrote swashbuckling tales of romance and derring-do. However, Andrew Marr reveals his lesser-known side as a political fixer who believed in a proud Scotland inside the UK. Scott brought George IV to his home country and, swathing him in tartan, created an enduring myth of Scotland as a place of romance populated by a brave race doing brave deeds, all clad in kilts.

**10.15 QI XL.** Stephen Fry presents an extended version of the quiz, and poses some unusual questions about jelly, jam and juice to Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck, Sue Perkins and Alan Davies. (R)

**11.00 Film: Insomnia.** (2002) Christopher Nolan's thriller, starring Al Pacino and the late Robin Williams.

**12.50 Film:** The Sheltering Sky. (1990)

**3.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.25** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Columbo: No Time to Die. (1992) **1.20 Film:** The Mighty Ducks. (1992) Ice-hockey comedy, starring Emilio Estevez. **3.25** Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis. (R) **3.55 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney and the late Lauren Bacall.

**6.20 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.30 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.45 You've Been Framed! Top Tens.** Comedian Harry Hill unveils some of his favourite comical clips, featuring shocks and surprises, madcap pets and dramatic falls, as he narrates a selection of viewer-submitted videos. (R)

**7.45 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Comedienne Jo Brand, former England rugby union player Ben Cohen and Dragons' Den investor Kelly Hoppen take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. Last in the series.

**8.45 All Star Family Fortunes.** EastEnders' June Brown (Dot Branning) and Blue singer Simon Webbe team up with their relatives in a bid to win £30,000 for their chosen charities. Vernon Kay hosts. (R)

**9.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi.** (1983) The rebel heroes set out to rescue Han Solo before a final decisive battle with the forces of the evil Empire. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Continues after the News.

**10.45 ITV News**; Weather.

**11.00 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi.** (1983) Concluded.

**12.30** Jackpot247.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Close. **6.05** Trans World Sport. **7.00** Tri Liverpool. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.50** Frasier. (R) **10.20** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.40** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Heston's Great British Food. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of live racing from York and Goodwood. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.15 Come Dine with Me.** Double-glazing salesman Richard Deeping hosts the final party in Leicester, and hopes to impress with his culinary prowess before the winner is announced. (R)

**6.40 Channel 4 News.**

**7.05 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke follows Vanessa Ford Robbins and partner Nik Huddy's project to restore a Victorian gate lodge located on the boundaries of a country estate in Surrey. (R)

**8.00 Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Brighton couple Daren Howarth and Adi Nortje, who want to build an earth-sheltered home from recycled materials, based on ideas pioneered in New Mexico in the 1970s. However, land prices and planning laws have forced the pair out of England and into Brittany. To keep costs down, Daren and Adi enlist the help of unskilled volunteers to work on the house, in exchange for teaching them the construction techniques. (R)

**9.00 Film: Red Lights.** (2012) Premiere. A famous blind psychic returns to the public arena 30 years after his career ended in scandal and a suspicious death. A paranormal investigator ignores his mentor's warnings and tries to expose the spiritualist as a fraud, a task that sets him on a dangerous path. Thriller, starring Cillian Murphy, Sigourney Weaver and Robert De Niro.

**11.15 Psychopath Night.** Documentary going inside the minds of psychopaths, finding out how to spot them and counting down the top 10 mentally deranged movie characters, as selected by experts. (R)

**1.05** The Last Leg. (R) **1.50** Homeland. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. **4.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.55** Access. **10.00** Hercules the Human Bear. (R) **10.55** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.55** Extreme Nightmare Neighbours Next Door. (R) **12.55 Film:** White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf. (1994) Adventure sequel, starring Scott Bairstow. **3.00 Film:** The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. **5.00 Film:** Michael Jackson's This Is It. (2009) Documentary following the singer in rehearsal.

**7.10 ABBA @ 40: The Abba Years.** Documentary exploring the history of the Swedish band and the careers of Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad after their split in 1982. The film charts their rise to fame after coming together as a band and winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with Waterloo, and the success in the years that followed, in which they sold 360 million records. Featuring interviews with all four members, and a look behind the scenes at the musical Mamma Mia! that shows Bjorn and Benny working with the theatre team. Featuring contributions by Bono and Pete Waterman. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

**8.05 ABBA @ 40: Live at Wembley.** A recording of the Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979. Featuring performances of hits including Voulez-Vous, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight), SOS, Take a Chance on Me, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

**9.05 5 News Weekend.**

**9.10 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of another day in the celebrity-filled house, including a chance to see the events leading up to the first eviction and what happened afterwards. Did the result go down well with all the remaining contestants, or did arguments break out in the small hours?

**10.10 Rob Brydon Live.**

**11.10 Autopsy: Michael Jackson's Last Hours.** (R)

**12.10** Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** Greg & Jen @ Reading **8.00** Foster the People & Imagine Dragons @ Reading **9.00** Jake Bugg & Bombay Bicycle Club @ Reading **10.00** Arctic Monkeys @ Reading **11.50** Family Guy **1.40** American Dad! **2.20** Sexy Beasts **2.50** Russell Howard's Good News **3.50** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Human Planet **8.00** Tales from the National Parks **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special **12.20** Queens of Disco **1.20** Sounds of the 70s 2 Soul – Keep on Keeping On **1.50** Human Planet **2.50** Tales from the National Parks **3.50** Close

**ITV2**

**11.15** Take Me Out **12.25** Dinner Date: Australia **1.20** You've Been Framed Rides Again! **2.25** You've Been Framed! Full Throttle **3.30 Film:** Nancy Drew (2007) **5.30** You've Been Framed! **6.35 Film:** King Kong (2005) **10.00 Film:** Hostage (2005) **12.20 Film:** State of Play (2009) **2.45** Kylie Minogue: The Hot Desk

**ITV3**

**11.05 Film:** Carry On Jack (1963) **12.55** Pollyanna **3.00** A Touch of Frost **7.05** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **1.25** World Kitchen **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**12.40 Film:** Destry (1954) **2.35 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **5.10** The Motorbike Show **6.15** Storage Wars **7.15 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05 Film:** Boogeyman (2004) **12.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **1.55** Police, Camera, Action! **2.20** Cheers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

**E4**

**11.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **12.30** The Big Bang Theory **1.30 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **3.25** The Big Bang Theory **4.25** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Made in Chelsea NYC **6.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **7.05** The 100 **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 4.0 (2007) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory **12.30** Virtually Famous **1.20** Almost Royal **1.50** How I Met Your Mother

**Film4**

**11.00** Meet Dave (2008) **12.50** X-Men: First Class Special **1.00** Toys (1992) **3.25** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **5.30** Marmaduke (2010) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** The Hole (2009) **10.50** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.30** Shutter (2008)

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## CHOICE

Matthew McNulty

**The Mill (Channel 4, 8pm)**
When the strikers form a line outside the gates, William enlists a band of men to break the stand-off, joined by John's special constables. A violent confrontation follows and Daniel is arrested - but calls for the workers to keep fighting. While Esther is attending the union meeting in Manchester in his place, Susannah looks after baby Billy, who has become critically ill. Elsewhere, more information comes to light about Peter's background, but before he can learn the truth, Hannah's sickness takes a turn for the worse. Starring Kerrie Hayes, Lauren McQueen, Connor Dempsey, Mark Frost, Joshua Isherwood, Ewan Phillips, Katherine Rose Morley, Justin Salinger, Barbara Marten, Holly Kenny, Sope Dirisu and Matthew McNulty.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix. Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.30** Songs of Praise.

**6.05 Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole.** On a jungle expedition in Guyana, Steve Backshall encounters an ant with the world's most painful sting and explores below the water of the rainforest rivers. Last in the series.

**6.35 BBC News**; Regional News.

**7.00 Nature's Miracle Orphans.** Part one of two. Presenters Ellie Harrison and Max Hug Williams follow orphaned baby animals as they make steps to return to the wild. Ellie travels to Australia to meet three koalas called Tilly, Puddles and Danny, who were rescued from the roadside where their mother had been killed – Danny needs around-the-clock care and is building up his strength with night-time games of chase. She also meets a tiny wallaby called Neil whose carer Stella is worried may die from stress if they can't find him a companion. Elsewhere, wildlife cameraman Max is in Costa Rica where he gets acquainted with Newbie, a five-month-old three-toed sloth, who has suffered from pneumonia since she was rescued. He follows wildlife manager Sam at Kids Saving The Rainforest as she tries to teach the baby sloth to climb trees and learn to go back to the wild.

**8.00 Countryfile.** John Craven and Anita Rani explore the foodie culture of Herefordshire, meeting farmer Simon Cutter and his pure-bred cattle and a botanist extracting natural goodness from fields.

**9.00 The Village.** Grace becomes increasingly impressed by Bill's left-wing ideas as polling day approaches, John makes a success of the dairy farm and Clem finds the perfect match for Edmund.

**10.00 BBC News**

**10.25 Match of the Day 2.**

**11.35 Match of the Day at 50.** (R)

**12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead.

**12.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Coast. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** Food & Drink. (R) **1.30** Sweets Made Simple. (R) **2.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **2.30** Live Athletics. The British Athletics Grand Prix.

**7.00 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix – Highlights.** Suzi Perry introduces action from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit, where the 12th meeting of the season took place. This was the first race since the summer break, which came after the Hungarian Grand Prix, and Daniel Ricciardo was aiming to repeat his thrilling win at the Hungaroring, while Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg resumed their duel for the title. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard, and analysis by Eddie Jordan.

**8.00 Dragons' Den.** More people bid to win funding for their projects from the panel, including a returning entrepreneur with an outdoor space-saving device, a golfing duo with a new take on the traditional tee, and a designer who has flipped the conventional umbrella on its head. The Dragons also come face to face with a fellow multimillionaire and the Den is filled with children's teepees. With a fair amount of game playing, gambling and bargaining taking place, will anyone manage to secure a deal? Evan Davis presents.

**9.00 James May's Cars of the People.** James explores how aspiration and new wealth inspired some of the greatest vehicles ever made and also unveils his choice of the ultimate people's car. Last in the series.

**10.00 An Adventure in Space and Time.** Drama written by Mark Gatiss telling the story of how sci-fi series Doctor Who was first brought to the screen in November 1963. Starring David Bradley and Brian Cox. (R)

**11.30 Film: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.** (2005) Sci-fi comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Bill Nighy.

**1.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.25** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** River Monsters. (R) **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point. (R)

**6.35 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.45 ITV News**; Weather.

**7.00 Come On Down! The Game Show Story.** Bradley Walsh looks at the role played by contestants in creating game-show history across the decades. He meets the team whose bizarre answers featured in one of the most memorable editions of Family Fortunes, and hears how Bullseye brought a new level of frustration to participants when Jim Bowen showed them what they could have won. He talks to people famous for their losing TV appearances, including the teacher labelled "Disastermind" by the press and the founding member of the Deal or No Deal 1p Club. Bradley also joins forces with three pros to take on all-comers in a pub quiz. With contributions by Ant and Dec, Nick Knowles, Richard Osman, Vernon Kay and other small-screen stars.

**8.00 The Zoo.** The giraffe herd at Whipsnade has a new arrival in need of urgent help – the calf has problems with its legs and is unable to suckle from its mother. Last in the series.

**9.00 The Great War: The People's Story.** A young woman (Claire Foy) seizes the chance to work in arms factories, a country vicar (Brian Cox) writes about men leaving for war and a servant (Amy Morgan) falls for a soldier.

**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.15 Kids with Cameras: Diary of a Children's Ward.**

**11.15 The Cube.** A sales assistant and a police officer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. (R)

**12.10** The Store.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** British F3. **7.05** Outlaw Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25 Film:** Runaway Bride. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

**6.35 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 How Britain Worked.** Engineering enthusiast Guy Martin celebrates the workers of the Industrial Revolution by recreating some of the 19th century's most impressive technical achievements. Along the way he focuses on the unsung heroes of the time – the men, women and children who worked 14 hours a day for little pay to create extraordinary marvels that changed the country for ever. He begins by overhauling a steam locomotive currently in use on the Severn Valley Railway, repairing its boiler, safety valves and one of its two-ton wheels. He also lays some track using the same methods as the notorious "navvies" – the notorious, hard-living labourers who put together Britain's entire railway infrastructure by hand. (R)

**8.00 The Mill.** As tensions escalate during the strike, a violent confrontation leads to Daniel's arrest. Susanna looks after Esther's baby, who has become critically ill. Last in the series.

**9.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day.** (2012) Premiere. A man on a sailing holiday in Spain discovers his family have been abducted. His search for them leads him to learn that his father has been leading a double-life as a CIA agent, and has stolen top-secret information – which the kidnappers will stop at nothing to obtain. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver.

**10.50 Film: Skyline.** (2010) Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

**12.35** First Time Farmers. (R) **1.30** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.25** The Hoarder Next Door. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Home Cooking. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Highland Emergency. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25 Film:** Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2. (2011) Premiere. Comedy, starring Marcus Coloma. **3.05 Film:** Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **5.15 Film:** A Cinderella Story. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray.

**7.05 Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrols at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

**10.00 Film: Under Siege.** (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language.

**11.55 Film: Point Break.** (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

**2.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Woman on the Rampage: Killing Spree. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**
**7.00** Maverick Sabre & Clean Bandit @ Reading **8.00** The Kooks & You Me at Six @ Reading **9.00** Our World War **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Siblings **11.15** Cuckoo **11.45** Blink 182 & Disclosure @ Reading **12.45** American Dad! **1.30** Sexy Beasts **2.00** Siblings **2.30** Cuckoo **3.00** Impractical Jokers **3.30** Sexy Beasts **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**
**7.00** The Sunday Prom: Elgar's Cello Concerto **9.05** Definitely Dusty **10.05 Film:** Cafe de Flore (2011) **12.00** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **1.00** Kate Bush at the BBC **2.00** The Joy of Abba **3.00** Definitely Dusty **4.00** Close

**ITV2**
**11.55** America's Got Talent **2.30** Ultimate You've Been Framed **3.30 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **5.25 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **7.15 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **9.00 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **11.15 Film:** The Butterfly Effect (2004) **1.35** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**
**11.50** Wycliffe **1.00 Film:** Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) **3.50 Film:** Summer Holiday (1963) **6.00 Film:** Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **8.00** Lewis **10.00 Film:** City of Angels (1998) **12.20** William and Mary **1.20** Pollyanna **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**
**6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Ray Mears' Close Encounters **9.00 Film:** Spy Game (2001) **11.35** Hell on Wheels **12.35** River Monsters **1.40** Movies Now **1.50** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

**E4**
**12.30** Made in Chelsea NYC **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** Suburgatory **3.00** The Mindy Project **3.30** New Girl **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The 100 **6.00** Rude(ish) Tube **7.00 Film:** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **9.00** Made in Chelsea NYC **10.00** Almost Royal **10.35** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Virtually Famous **12.25** Rules of Engagement

**Film4**
**11.00** Written on the Wind (1956) **1.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **2.50** Black Knight (2001) **4.40** Edward Scissorhands (1990) **6.50** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Haunting in Connecticut (2009) **11.00** Raging Balls of Steel Justice **11.15** R100 (2013)


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## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**
**The Sorcerer's Apprentice, BBC1, 1.30pm**
A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina. (2010)

**TUESDAY**
**Seventeen and Missing, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A mother with clairvoyant abilities is distraught when her teenage daughter goes missing. She finds herself plagued by traumatic visions of the girl's abduction, which might provide the vital clue to rescuing her, and turns to her estranged husband for help in tracking down their child. Thriller, starring Dedee Pfeiffer, Matthew Harrison and Tegan Moss. (2006)

**WEDNESDAY**
**Our Children, Channel 4, 1.10am**
A woman marries a Moroccan immigrant and together they move into the home of his adoptive father. She is left feeling increasingly isolated living a household in which they have become trapped, driving her to contemplate killing her five children. Fact-based drama, starring Emilie Dequenne, Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. In French and Arabic. (2012)

The Invention of Lying, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**THURSDAY**
**The Hunted, BBC1, 11.35pm**
A traumatised special forces soldier regresses to a feral existence in an isolated area of woodland. Increasingly unhinged, he starts to pick off anyone who strays into his path, prompting the mentor who trained him in hand-to-hand armed combat to track him down before the authorities take drastic action. Action thriller, with Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro, Connie Nielsen and Mark Pelegrino. (2003)

**FRIDAY**
**The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm**
In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success - and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais and Jennifer Garner. (2009)

## PICK OF THE WEEK

# Series continues to prove a novel success

A year ago, Channel 5 brought us one of the most enjoyably bonkers fantasy sagas of the year. Based on the novel by Stephen King, Under the Dome was one of those glorious 'What if?'-style dramas popularised in The Twilight Zone.

In this case, the 'what if?' being: a hemispherical force field. It appeared out of nowhere and trapped the residents of small American town Chester's Mill. Once comparisons with The Simpsons Movie faded, UDT became must-see viewing for viewers who don't take their fantasy TV too seriously.

It didn't just raise questions such as 'What created the dome', or 'Was it impassable?', but 'Would rain pass through the force field?' and 'What happened when the food and resources ran out?'

It didn't hurt that there was eye candy for both sexes, from hunky, shady ex-soldier Barbie (Mike Vogel) to flame-haired investigative reporter Julia Shumway (Rachel LeFevre).

And as every good drama needs a larger-than-life villain, Breaking Bad veteran Dean Norris proved perfect as politician/used car dealer 'Big Jim' Rennie.

Okay, some Stephen King purists may have argued that it's not as good as the 2009 source novel, but given the fact most King-inspired TV strands have been a let down, it proved more compelling than most.

Series one of Under the Dome was bursting with memorable moments, from a cow sliced in half when the hemisphere first appeared, to the man whose pacemaker exploded in his chest. It was the show where anything could, and probably would happen.

Admittedly it wasn't perfect, but it kept many fans coming back for more week after week, and series two looks like it could be equally compelling. It picks up directly from where the first series left off.

Chester's Mill is now bathed in a blinding white light as the Dome starts to change. It becomes opaque, and starts emitting a regular electromagnetic pulse.

Pink stars have fallen in lines as a result of Julia throwing the egg into the lake, and Barbie is awaiting execution on the scaffold after Big Jim accused him of murder.

Of course the ongoing success of this series has meant Mike Vogel's own star is definitely on the rise.

"What I love about this show, it's very real characters reacting to a very unreal event," he explains. Mike is no stranger to working in Blighty, having made a film with Jamie Murray called The Deaths of Ian Stone. If UDT's schedule allows, he'd love to return to the UK for a new project. "I love England and I love English actors," he explains. "There is a richness and a tradition in the craft that you get with English actors that I don't see a lot with my American counterparts. It's always refreshing to me."

New 'Dome' cast additions should help make this second run equally refreshing.

Look out for former ER star Sherry Stringfield as Big Jim's 'late' wife Pauline, while country music superstar Dwight Yoakam plays the delightfully named town barber, Lyle Chumley.

Mike Vogel stars in Under the Dome, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

## BEST OF THE REST

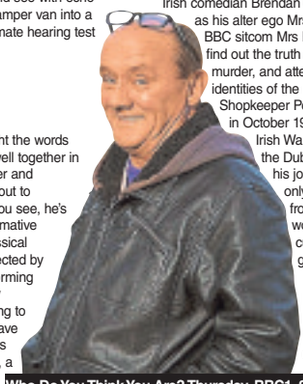
**MONDAY**
**Scotland Decides: Salmond versus Darling**
**BBC2, 8.30pm**
As the people of Scotland prepare to vote in next month's referendum on whether to break away from the rest of the UK, Glenn Campbell chairs the second debate between First Minister Alex Salmond and Better Together leader Alistair Darling. The SNP leader and the former chancellor of the exchequer will lay out their competing visions for the future of Scotland in front of a specially invited audience at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow.

**Gadget Man**
**Channel 4, 8.30pm**
New series. Richard Ayoade returns with the show exploring the world of technology, from the everyday to the extraordinary. In the first edition, he takes on the worst of the British climate, braving a hurricane in a wind tunnel with the help of Tim Vine to assess the best in gust-busting gadgetry. He's also joined by Marcus Brigstocke at the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre to pressure-test cold-weather technology.

**TUESDAY**
**Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals**
**BBC2, 9pm**
Biologist Patrick Aryee and physicist Helen Czerski continue their exploration of the world of animal senses by investigating sound - from the deepest rumbles to the highest squeaks - using specialised technology to detect noises beyond the range of human hearing. They reveal how alligators use low-pitch sounds to make the water around them 'dance', show what it is like to be a bat and see with echo-location, and convert a classic camper van into a giant speaker to conduct the ultimate hearing test for a herd of elephants.

**WEDNESDAY**
**Addicts' Symphony**
**Channel 4, 11pm**
Okay, so you'd never have thought the words 'addict' and 'classical music' go well together in the same sentence, but composer and musician James McConnel is about to enlighten us as to why they do. You see, he's examining music's many transformative uses by bringing together 10 classical musicians who have all been affected by addiction – and they will be performing alongside the London Symphony Orchestra. Every musician is trying to break free of addiction – some have been sober for years, while others only a few months – and James, a recovering alcoholic himself, wants to prove just how big a part music can play in an addict's recovery.

**THURSDAY**
**Who Do You Think You Are?**
**BBC1, 9pm**
Irish comedian Brendan O'Carroll, best known as his alter ego Mrs Brown and star of the BBC sitcom Mrs Brown's Boys, tries to find out the truth about his grandfather's murder, and attempts to uncover the identities of the men responsible. Shopkeeper Peter O'Carroll was killed in October 1920 at the height of the Irish War of Independence, and the Dublin-born actor begins his journey of discovery with only a newspaper article from the time and the words 'shot during the curfew' from Peter's gravestone.


Who Do You Think You Are? Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

**FRIDAY**
**Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game**
**Channel 4, 9pm**
Cockney comic Mickey Flanagan came to his stand-up career relatively late in life. After working variously as a porter at Billingsgate Fish Market, a dishwasher, a window cleaner and a furniture maker, he tried his hand at comedy aged 35. It didn't take him too long to find his feet, and now he's one of the scene's biggest names. In fact, last year's Back in the Game tour was the biggest comedy event of 2013, playing to more than half a million people across the UK and Ireland. The show featured his best material to date, and for anyone who's only ever seen him on the myriad panel shows that seemed to help launch his televisual career, this is a must-see.

**Big School**
**BBC1, 9.30pm**
New series. Return of the classroom comedy, starring David Walliams. When Miss Postern sets up a careers workshop, it seems her slogan 'Which Way Now?' applies as much to her as it does to the pupils, not least because the guest speaker is her old teacher-training colleague - and now best-selling children's author - Fenella Forbes (played by Morgana Robinson). Meanwhile, her relationship with Mr Church has taken a downward turn after a misunderstanding over a date. On the upside, the future is looking bright for one member of staff, as Mr Martin prepares to launch a pop career. With Catherine Tate, Daniel Rigby and Philip Glenister.

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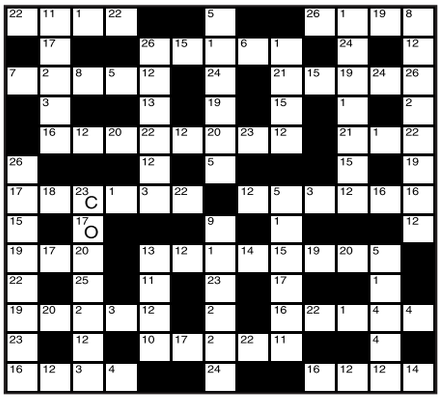
## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



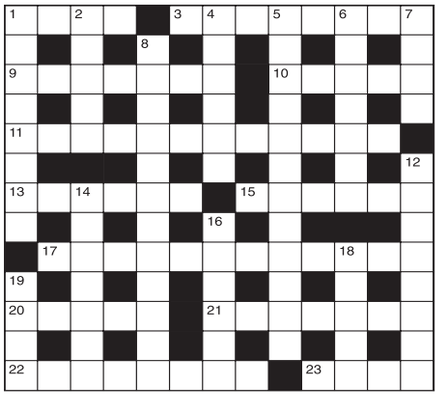
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 O |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 C |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 O | 2 R | 3 P | 4 G | 5 W | 6 J | 7 Q | 8 K | 9 T | 10 X | 11 D | 12 S | 13 Z |
| 14 I | 15 Y | 16 B | 17 N | 18 F | 19 A | 20 H | 21 U | 22 L | 23 C | 24 M | 25 E | 26 V |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



### Cryptic Clues:

**Across**

1. It's a job to send off communications (4)
3. Progressive direction as far as hospital rooms are concerned (8)
9. Row about the return of the doctor is disgusting (7)
10. The result of an addition to the account that's endless (5)
11. Could it be a film of the Scottish mountains? (8,4)
13. Making observations outside the capital of Germany (6)
15. Young animals found in the garbage bin (6)
17. Travel voucher for the bachelor? (6,6)
20. Plenty found among damp leaves (5)
21. May be well patronised at play-time (7)
22. An obstruction on one and all nearly producing aristocratic epithet (8)
23. Those in favour of the pupils, we hear (4)

**Down**

1. An inclination to write a song (8)
2. A ballistic device used for supporting a member (5)
4. The wettest parts of the earth (6)
5. He's skilled in finding liquid assets (5-7)
6. Withdraw to the monastery, maybe (7)
7. Only sea-food (4)
8. People on this surface are likely to use bias (7-5)
12. Takes trouble about the right union members (8)
14. One on an excursion is a dancer (7)
16. The girl embraced by Robert Harris (6)
18. Common fund for Catherine (5)
19. Sounds like congestion seen at the side of the entrance (4)

### Quick Clues:

**Across**

1. Select (4)
3. Yielded (8)
9. Warlike (7)
10. Move sideways (5)
11. Self-government (12)
13. Unmask (6)
15. Proscribe (6)
17. Decline (12)
20. Accumulate (5)
21. Melancholy (7)
22. Collapse (4,4)
23. Parched (4)

**Down**

1. Amalgamated (8)
2. Sensational (5)
4. Become less severe (6)
5. Shady (12)
6. Addition to will (7)
7. Action (4)
8. Ousted (12)
12. Cheated (8)
14. Be victorious (7)
16. Grassland (6)
18. Deduce (5)
19. Stray (4)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 2 | 3 | | 6 |
| | 2 | 6 | 5 | | | | 7 | |
| 9 | | | 7 | | 6 | | | |
| 4 | 1 | | 9 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | 5 | 1 | | 4 | |
| 7 | | 9 | | | 3 | | 5 | 1 |
| | | | 3 | | 5 | | | 7 |
| | 7 | | | | 4 | 5 | 2 | |
| 8 | | 3 | 2 | | | | | |

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 The buck; 7 Music; 9 Break; 10 Look-out; 12 Legal tender; 14 The Bastille; 18 Drawing; 19 Of day; 21 Lover; 22 Lineage. Down: 1 Sharp; 2 Abrade; 3 Ace; 4 Buskin; 5 Minutes; 8 Contain; 11 Passing; 13 Chariot; 15 Bowler; 16 Lifted; 17 Laugh; 20 Wig. QUICK - Across: 6 Durable; 7 Widen; 9 State; 10 Gainsay; 12 Under stress; 14 Stage player; 18 Protect; 19 Carry; 21 Flour; 22 Collect. Down: 1 Quota; 2 Fasten; 3 Sly; 4 Winner; 5 Relapse; 8 Oarsman; 11 Respect; 13 Sterile; 15 Get out; 16 Enable; 17 Trick; 20 Joy.


# Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

**Simple, free, and all in one place.**

Visit www.listora.me/2014 to list your next event.

# WIN A SHARE OF £30,000 for your community group

Express & Star CASH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

In association with HomeServe

**Fancy a slice of our dream fund? The Express & Star has teamed up with HomeServe to give away an astounding £30,000 to local community groups!**

We are backing organisations from around our circulation area running or planning projects that will benefit their local community.

From charities to support groups, youth clubs to sports teams, we are now accepting applications from organisations wishing to take part in our Cash For Your Community campaign. A maximum of only 100 organisations can take part, so it's crucial you act fast and register now.

Every eligible organisation/group will receive a slice of £27,000 based upon the proportion of the total number of tokens they collect.

As a bonus, the top three groups collecting the most tokens will also receive an additional £1,000. Tokens will be printed in the Express & Star from Monday, September 29 until Saturday, November 1, 2014.

In order for your tokens to count, you must be registered, so fill in the form today and send it to:

**Cash For Your Community, Express & Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**The deadline for registrations is 5pm, Saturday, September 13, 2014.**

Registrations must be received by 5pm, Saturday, September 13, 2014. Registrations will only be accepted when signed by an authorised officer of the community group who is over the age of 18 on the official registration form. This will be printed in the Express & Star on a regular basis from August 18 until September 10 2014 and online or until the first 100 eligible groups have registered. Your community group must have a constitution which details who the members/trustees/directors are, have a set of audited accounts and a bank account in the name of the group with at least two non-related signatories. The campaign is only open to not-for-profit community groups, charities or social enterprise organisations whose main activities are based in the circulation area of the Express & Star.The first 100 verified community groups will be eligible to take part. Eligibility will also be based upon how the prize money will be spent as described on this form which will be assessed by a panel of judges. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Participating groups will be showcased in the Express & Star, online and via social media throughout the duration of the campaign and agree to take part in relevant publicity including photographic and video coverage. Full terms and conditions can be found online at www.expressandstar.com/cfyc

## Registration Form

Express & Star CASH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY In association with HomeServe

Organisation/Group name _____

Contact Name _____ Your Role _____

Registered Charity Number (if applicable) _____ Correspondence Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel. Number _____ Email Address _____

If your application is successful, name of the community group/charity the cheque will be payable to? _____

_____

Tell us about your group _____

_____

_____

Tell us about your project _____

_____

_____

How will a slice of the dream fund make a difference? _____

_____

_____

Signature _____ Date _____

# Residence forms part of a popular development

AN exceptional detached four bedroomed house in Bassett Crescent, West Bromwich is part of the recently built Churchfields development. It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £255,000 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall with guest WC, bay fronted lounge, spacious open plan kitchen/diner with light wood units, , a master bedroom with fitted wardrobes an en suite shower room/WC, three further bedrooms, a 'Jack n Jill' style bathroom/WC. Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 5252111 or visit the site at www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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**£197,950**

### HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 2DX

- A Mid terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Double Glazed
- Freehold

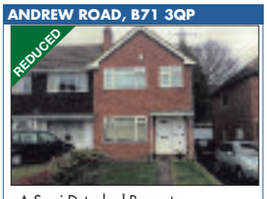
**£124,950**

### KENT ROAD, WS10 0SD

- A One Bedroom Maisonette
- Majority Double Glazed
- Communal Rear Garden
- Vacant Possession
- EPC RATING C

**£64,950**

### ANDREW ROAD, B71 3QP




- A Semi Detached Property
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- Freehold Being Purchased
- EPC RATING D, No Upward Chain

**£119,950**

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- Plans Available On Request

**£150,000**

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- Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING C
- Freehold

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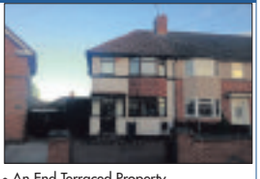
- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

**£94,950**

### CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY



- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

**£99,950**

### CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HX

- A Semi Detached Property
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- Central Heating
- Conservatory & Garage At Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

**£169,950**

### HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

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- Conservatory, EPC Rating E
- Garage, Freehold

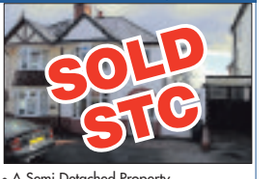
**£279,950**

### HOBART ROAD, DY4 9LQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING C

**£114,950**

### CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY




- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Two Bathrooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

**£189,950**

### BEACONVIEW ROAD, B71 3PS

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**£400 PCM £400 DEPOSIT**

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- Majority Central heating
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- Freehold, EPC Rating E

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- EPC RATING C

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# An outstanding and improved semi-detached

AN outstanding and improved semi-detached home, 25 Windsor Avenue, Oldbury lies in a convenient cul-de-sac, well placed for commuting.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £249,950. It has a porch, entrance hall with a staircase off, an exceptionally spacious through living room with doors opening to the garden, kitchen with cream units. On the first floor is a shower room, additional WC, four bedrooms and a second floor boarded loft with en suite bathroom. Contact Taylors on 0121 4344345 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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SMETHWICK

West Park Road

An extremely spacious, 4 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property within this popular, sought after neighbourhood, with pleasant views from the front to local park, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, rear vestibule (with downstairs shower room and w.c off), 4 excellent sized double bedrooms, bathroom and good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £275,000

TIVIDALE, OLDBURY

Taylor Way

Delightfully presented, spacious, modern, 3 bedroomed detached property occupying a pleasant position upon this popular development, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, separate dining room, attractive fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), utility, 3 good sized bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), super re-fitted house bathroom, small garage/useful store and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £189,950

TIPTON

Oxford Way

An OUTSTANDING and exceptionally stylish uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated semi detached with GARAGE (in adjacent court) excellently situated in favoured cul de sac. Superb accommodation includes lounge, inner hallway, cloaks/store, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a range of 'white beech effect units' TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, professionally landscaped/secluded garden and a brick garage. Internal inspection vital. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

OLDBURY

Wolverhampton Road

A well presented, deceptively spacious, 2 bedroomed intermediate family home, conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), attractive lounge, re-fitted kitchen (having integral oven/hob), 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted shower room, separate w.c and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY

Shelley House, Heritage Close

A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented and thoughtfully improved 2 bedroomed ground floor flat, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge (double doors opening onto) balcony, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 2 double bedrooms (both having fitted wardrobes), re-fitted bathroom and communal garden area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £82,500

SMETHWICK

Milton Court, Sandon Road

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed flat, pleasantly situated within this retirement complex, most conveniently situated for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £69,950

OLDBURY

Moat Road

A delightfully presented, thoughtfully improved, spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached property set within this popular neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heqating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, sitting room, opening through to fitted dining kitchen (having integral oven/hob), utility area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £179,950

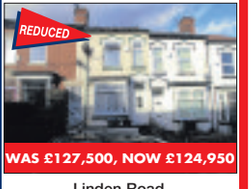
BEARWOOD

Galton Road

A rare opportunity to acquire a spacious, well presented and thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful spacious lounge, inner hall, re-fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge/freezer), 3 good sized bedrooms, atractive bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC RATING D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers in excess of £165,000

SMETHWICK




Linden Road

An attractive, well proportioned, deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilites and amenities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, inner hall, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating E. bearwood office 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £124,950



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# TIMOTHY DANIELS ESTATES

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West Midlands. DY4 7AR
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Fax: 0121 439 4616

**TIPTON** — NEW

We are pleased to offer this spacious apartment close to local ammenities. Accomodation comprises communal ent hall, fully fitted kitchen to include various appliances, lounge area with feature fireplace, 2 good sized bedrooms and bathroom with electric shower over bath. Economy 7 heating throughout. Off road parking.

Bedford Street — £74,500

**TIPTON**

We are pleased to offer this newly decorated Bedsit. Accomodation comprises good size bedroom/sitting room. Seperate private kitchen with brand new cooker. Seperate private Bathroom. Communal gardens and off road parking. Suitable for single person living.

TUDOR COURT — £350 p.c.m

**TIVIDALE**

Fully refurbished to a high standard, we are offering this semi-detached house in a much sort after location. Accomodation comprises, entrance hall, lounge with bay window, open plan kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, garden at rear. Front driveway and side access. Must be viewed. No upward Chain.

Elm Terrace — £119.950

**DUDLEY** — REDUCED

Fully fitted hair salon . To include various fittings, Kitchen and toilet facilities shared at rear. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Rental does not include Business Rates.

Bradford Road — £370 p.c.m

**WEST BROMICH**

Room Only to let in large well presented house, own private bathroom and shared kitchen facilities with owner. Must be dog friendly. Rental to include all bills.

Coles Lane, Hill top — £350.00 p.c.m

**TIPTON**

Mid Terrace Family Home, Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Double Beds, Bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking. Must be viewed.

Rowland Hill Drive — £110,000

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**SMETHWICK** — OIRO £139,950
Great Arthur Street, B66
- Three bedrooms
- Large lounge
- Internally maintained
- Maintained rear garden
- Driveway

**EDGBASTON** — £74,950
Barleycorn Drive, B16
PUBLIC NOTICE

**SMETHWICK** — £249,950
Doulton Drive, B66
- Five bedrooms
- Two bathrooms & en suite
- Reception & conservatory
- Rear garden
- Off road parking

**SMETHWICK** — £91,500
Higgins Walk, B66
- Two bedrooms
- End terraced
- Kitchen/diner
- Rear garden
- Communal parking

**HOCKLEY** — £90,000
Ford Street, B18
- Three bedrooms
- Terraced
- Utility room
- Ideal for FTB
- Groundfloor WC

**OLDBURY** — £160,000
Wolverhampton Road, B69
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Double glazed
- Driveway & garage
- Delightful family home

**SMETHWICK** — £167,995
Brisbane Road, B67
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Ground floor bathroom

**OLDBURY** — £99,950
Princess Road, B68
- Three bedrooms
- One reception
- Off road parking
- Ideal for FTB
- Quick sale required

**TIVIDALE** — £650 PCM
Shirwell Crescent, B69
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Newly decorated
- Available September
- Maintained rear garden

**SMETHWICK** — £525 PCM
Sabell Road, B67
- Three bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Groundfloor bathroom
- Paved rear garden
- DSS accepted

**WINSON GREEN** — £500 PCM
James Turner Street, B18
- Three bedrooms
- Large through lounge
- Furnished
- DSS accepted
- Available immediately

**HANDSWORTH** — £450 PCM
Holyhead Road, B21
- Two bedrooms
- Second floor flat
- Partly furnished
- Fitted bathroom
- DG & CH

Smethwick Branch
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Bearwood Branch
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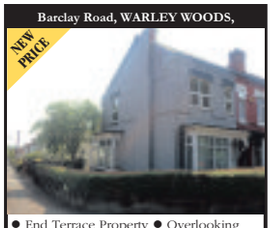
**Barclay Road, WARLEY WOODS,** — NEW PRICE



● End Terrace Property ● Overlooking Warley Woods ● Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Shower Room ● Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain ● Parking

*Offers Around £209,950*

**Galton Road, BEARWOOD,**

● Mid Terraced ● Three Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Bathroom ● Some modernisation required ● Early Viewing Recommended!

*Offers Around £154,950*

**Smith Close, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Early Viewing Highly Recommended! ● Immaculate Family Home ● Reception Room ● Re-Fitted Kitchen/Diner ● Conservatory ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom ● Driveway

*Offers Around £149,950*

**Topsham Road, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Spacious Family Home ● Two Reception Rooms ● Shower Room ● Re-Fitted Extended Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom ● Early Viewing Highly Recommended

*Offers Around £144,950*

**Birchley Park Avenue, OLDBURY,**

● Modern Semi Detached ● Reception Room ● Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory ● Three Bedrooms ● Master En-suite ● Family Bathroom ● Garage ● Driveway ● No Upward Chain

*Offers Around £139,950*

**Sydney Road, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Well Maintained Family Home ● Two Reception Rooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Driveway ● Ideal First Time Purchase

*Offers Around £127,950*

**Broadmoor Avenue, SMETHWICK,**

● Spacious Semi Detached ● Through Lounge ● Extended Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase

*Offers Around £119,950*

**Shaldon Walk, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Well Maintained Family Home Through Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Shower Room ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing Recommended!

*Offers Around £119,950*

**Trafalgar Road, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Three Storey Terrace ● Two Reception Rooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing is recommended

*Offers Around £114,950*

**Queens Close, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Mid Town House ● Kitchen/Diner ● Reception Room ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● No Upward Chain ● Ideal First Time Purchase or Investment Opportunity

*Offers Around £94,950*

**Southfield Road, SMETHWICK,** — NEW

● Mid Terraced ● Two Reception Rooms ● Kitchen ● Kitchen ● Shower Room ● Three Bedrooms ● No Upward Chain ● In Need of modernisation ● EPC rating E

*Offers Around £72,000*

**Eden Grove, WEST BROMWICH,**

● First Floor Apartment ● Reception Room ● Fitted Kitchen ● Bathroom ● Bathroom ● Bedroom plus further study/ small bedroom ● Communal Grounds & Parking ● No Upward Chain

*Offers Around £64,950*

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12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

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## at Aston Villa Football Ground

**174 Birmingham New Road, Walsall**
4 Bed Semi Detached Property
**Guide: £240,000 - £250,000**

**35 Church Street, Oldbury**
1 Bed First Floor Apartment
**Guide: £55,000 - £60,000**

**2 Revenhurst Drive, Great Barr**
4 Bed Detached Property
**Guide: £190,000 - £210,000**

**Flat 5 Unett Court, Smethwick**
1 Bed Residential Investment property
**Gross Income: £3,540 pa**
**Guide: £175,000 plus**

**18 Camberley, West Bromwich**
2 Bed Residential Investments
Current income: £5,280 pa
**Guide: £28,000 - £33,000**

**Perry Beeches Methodist Church**
Church Premises on a site extending to about 0.23 acres
**Guide: £80,000 - £100,000**

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**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

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**WEST BROMWICH**
**CAMBRIDGE STREET**

FOR SALE 3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, bathroom with overhead shower, enclosed rear garden.
**£109,500 Offers**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**RAYFORD DRIVE**

Spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached property, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom. Off road parking, garage. Must be viewed
**£134,950**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**HALLAM STREET**

Large 3 bedroom property, through lounge, central heated and double glazed. large kitchen, downstairs bathroom and upstairs w.c. new kitchen and bathroom. Prime location
**£125,000**

**TIPTON**
**ST.MARTINS DRIVE**

3 bedroom semi-detached modern property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom. central heated and dg. private drive and garage. Available unfurnished.
**£595 pcm**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**BEACONSVIEW RD**

Ground floor one bedroom flat, newly refurbished, spacious lounge. ch and double glazed. communial carpark.
**£360 pcm**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**
**DUBERVILLE ROAD**

3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, off road parking.
**£550 pcm**

**DUDLEY**
**QUEEN CROSS**

Good investment 2 commercial units, freehold for sale, Fish and chip shop, grocery store with a 5 bed flat above, currently all let out with good revenue stream.
**offers £220,000**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**ADELAIDE AVENUE**

Fully refurbished 3 bedroom property, spacious through lounge, ch and dg. first floor bathroom. detached garge, car port. Must be Viewed.
**£124,995 ONO**

**TIPTON**
**SIMEON BISSELL CLOSE**

Modern 3 bed property, spacious lounge with dining space, central heated and double glazed. first floor bathroom and master bedroom with ensuite. private drive and garage.
**£599 pcm**

**TIPTON**
**HIGHFIELD ROAD**

3 bedroom newly refurbished semi detached property, spacious lounge, new kitchen, downstairs w.c and first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed.off road parking.
**£525 pcm**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**WOOD LANE**

3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
**£499 pcm**

**WILLENHALL**
**NOTTINGHAM DRIVE**

Selection of 2 and 3 bedroom flats, with large rection rooms and bedrooms, central heated and double glazed. unfurnished. Off road parking. AVAILABLE TO DHSS
**From £100 pw**

**WEST BROWICH**
**EUROPA AVENUE**

Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished
**£750 pcm**

**DUDLEY**
**SOUTHGATE WAY**

Modern 2 bedroom apartment, open plan kitchen. fitted bathroom. economy heating and double glazed through out. designated parking. Available unfurnished. Must be viewed
**£495 pcm**

**WEST BROMWICH**
**JEFFERSON PLACE**

Modern ground floor apartment situated near sandwell hospital off Grafton road, spacious open plan kitchen and lounge, 1 bedroom, fitted bathroom. secure allocated parking.
**£430 pcm**

**WEDNESBURY**
**ELWELL STREET**

First floor one bedroom flat, spacious lounge, ch and Dg, Must be viewed. Modernised.
**£400 pcm**

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# DEREK SPIRES ESTATE AGENTS

NEW

1 FERNDALE ROAD, OLDBURY

•Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
|Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room and kitchen
•Verandah and fully tiled downstairs cloakroom
•Off-street parking
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

159 STONEY LANE, SMETHWICK

|Gas centrally heated
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Lounge, dining room, kitchen & conservatory
•Off-street parking at the rear
•Ideal family home

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

## PUBLIC AUCTION AT THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK. B67 6NR ON MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 6.30PM

Anticipated Price Range

**Lot 1:** 128 WHITE ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 7PG
Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed terraced. Needing some further improvement **£ 70 - 80,000**

**Lot 2:** 104 HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY B67 5EZ
Traditional freehold 2 bedroomed villa in need of full renovation **£ 70 - 80,000**

**Lot 3:** 398 CITY ROAD, TIVIDALE B69 1QZ
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated end terraced in need of general improvement **£ circa. 79,500**

**Lot 4:** 9 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY B68 8DE
Double glazed and well heated post-war 2 bedroomed maisonette **£ circa. 70,000**

**Lot 5:** 4 DALE STREET, SMETHWICK B66 4hy
Traditional Freehold 2 bedroomed terraced villa with central heating **£ 85 - 90,000**

**Lot 6:** 66 PITFIELDS ROAD, OLDBURY B68 0RQ
Freehold c/heated and double glazed mid-town house with 3 bedrooms, needing some cosmetic improvement **£ circa. 90,000**

**Lot 7:** 78 GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8BJ
Freehold c/heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed semi with garage, in need of upgrading **£ circa. 110,000**

**Lot 8:** 21 GARRATT CLOSE, OLDBURY B68 9NU
Modern ground floor double glazed 1 bedroomed maisonette **£ 60 - 70,000**

**Lot 9:** 48 UNKETTS ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6RG
Freehold 3 bedroomed gas centrally heated town house in need of modernisation **£ circa. 85,000**

**Lot 10:** 201 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5HX
Freehold villa, currently two flats and suitable for reinstatement to single dwelling **£ circa. 130,000**

**Lot 11:** 196 MERRIVALE ROAD, BEARWOOD B66 4EA
Freehold traditional 2 bedroomed villa in need of full improvement **£ circa. 75,000**

REDUCED

343 TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY

• Ground floor flat
• Good motorway links
• 2 bedrooms
• Open plan lounge/kitchen

OFFERS BASED ON £102,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

118 STANHOPE STREET, SMETHWICK

•Corner semi-detached property
•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Two reception rooms and kitchen
•SIDE ANNEXE having electric storage heating and double glazing, comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and shower room
•Potential off-street parking for two/three cars
•An ideal family home
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £150,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

36 ALEXANDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Spacious lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Neatly laid out garden to the rear
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £112,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

43 OAK ROAD, OLDBURY

•Extended link detached
•Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Superbly presented bathroom with Jacuzzi bath
•Impressive hallway
•Through lounge/dining room
•Additional sitting room & conservatory
•Side garage/store & off-street parking
•Neatly laid out rear garden
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

7 RON DAVIS CLOSE : SMETHWICK

• 2 double bedroomed semi
• Gas centrally heated
• Fully tiled bathroom
• Spacious lounge
• Garage in separate block

OFFERS BASED ON £109,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

35 ST. MARKS ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Gas centrally heated
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
•Hall, two reception rooms and kitchen
•Downstairs cloakroom & verandah
•Side garage
•Off-street parking for two/three cars
•Ideal family home

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

126 KATHERINE ROAD, BEARWOOD

|Gas centrally heated
|Part PVC double glazed
|Three bedrooms and bathroom
•Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
•Delightful gardens to the rear
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

•Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
•Easy access Birmingham city centre
•Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
•Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £79,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

37 CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

•Gas centrally heated and double glazed
•Extended much improved accommodation
•Three double bedrooms
•Fully tiled refitted bathroom with shower
•Dining room and almost 20ft lounge
•Good size refitted kitchen
•Off-street parking for two cars

OFFERS BASED ON £169,850

Viewings Bearwood Office

84 HUGH ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Three bedrooms
•Fully tiled shower room
•Through lounge/dining room
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Conservatory
•Side garage
•Off-street parking
•PVC double glazed
•Gas centrally heated
•An ideal family home
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £155,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

183 HEATH STREET, WINSON GREEN

•Superbly presented semi-detached property
•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Four bedrooms
•Refitted fully tiled bathroom
•Two reception rooms
•Open plan kitchen/dining room
•Off-street parking
•INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

36 SELSEY ROAD, EDGBASTON

•Superbly presented and deceptively spacious
•Three bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
•Impressive hall with original minton tiled floor
•Two reception rooms, kitchen and conservatory
|Double glazed (where specified)
•Gas centrally heated
•Well presented garden to the rear
•INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

43 DIBBLE ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Close to Smethwick High Street
•Freehold mid-terraced property
•Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Fully tiled bathroom
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £104,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

50 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms
•Bathroom and separate cloakroom
•Vestibule & hall with original minton tiled floor
•Through lounge/ dining room
•Verandah
•Delightful garden to the rear
•ENERGY RATING : E
•NO CHAIN
•ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED

OFFERS BASED ON £174,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

52 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

•PVC double glazed
•Gas centrally heated
•Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Refitted kitchen
•Recently refurbished
•VIEWING TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

71 BARCLAY ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Sought after location
•Substantial villa
•FOUR double bedrooms
•Fully tiled bathroom
•29ft through lounge
•MUST BE SEEN
•EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £310000

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

12 HALLEWELL ROAD, EDGBASTON

|Beautifully improved substantial family residence
•Sympathetically modernised to an exacting specification
•Gas central heating, double glazing and burglar alarm
•SOLAR PANEL HEATING
•Extremely spacious with many original features
•FIVE BEDROOMS
•Expensively equipped re-fitted and fully tiled bathroom
•Lounge & separate dining room both with feature fireplaces
•23ft+ dining/kitchen |Morning/sitting room
•Laundry/WC
•Established gardens
•Pleasant tree-lined residential thoroughfare
•INSPECTION

OFFERS BASED ON £289950

Viewing Bearwood Office

29 HERBERT ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Easy access to Birmingham city centre
•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms, master having en-suite shower room
•Family bathroom
•Impressive vestibule & hall with original minton tiled floors
•Lounge and sitting room
•Kitchen and conservatory
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

90 PARKES STREET, SMETHWICK

•PVC double glazed terraced property
•Two double bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

64 THE UPLANDS, SMETHWICK

•Freehold mid-terraced villa
•Close to Bearwood & Smethwick High Streets
•Centrally heated and double glazed
•Two bedrooms and bathroom
•Two reception rooms and kitchen
•Garden to the rear
•Ideally suited for first time buyers
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £86,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

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MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2014 GOLD THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

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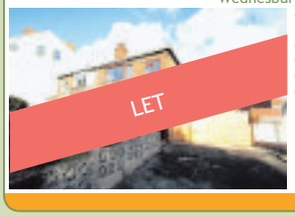


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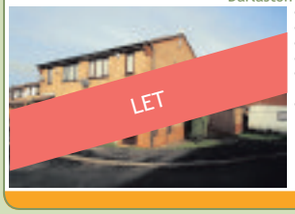


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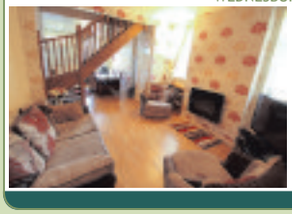

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- Family Bathroom
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# What's not to like in great value fast hatch

**By James Parker**

**Ford's Fiesta ST has long been the thinking person's fast hatchback. This latest one is no exception.**

With 182PS on tap, it keeps things real and the pricing looks great as well. Ford has certainly put down a serious marker. The plushest ST3 version adds sat nav, keyless entry, cruise control, auto headlamps and wipers, power folding mirrors and electronic climate control that many owners will want.

So-called 'warm hatches' have often been a tricky sell. Why? Because there's usually a faster version that's more desirable. Warm hatches are usually bought by younger drivers who want the faster car but can't afford the insurance bills. There is an exception. Ford's Fiesta would appear to be the perfect candidate for a searing hot hatch, but in recent years, instead of a fire-breathing RS model, the pinnacle of Fiesta sporting ambition has been the ST line. But the 'Sports Technologies' variant has usually been a great car in its own right.

Now we've got another Fiesta ST to compare with earlier standard setters. Instead of the 150PS it had in previous generation form, it gets a heftier 182PS. Does this lift it into a more serious price category? Not a bit of it. Ford has kept the pricing keen, so much so that we suspect that some manufacturers of this Fiesta's opposition are starting to feel more than a little worried.

The top ST3 version we're going to look at here costs an extra £1,000, but still manages to look good value against many obvious rivals.

Ford has developed new chassis and suspension components to improve the ride quality and refinement of the car and further enhanced the Ford Electronic Power Assisted Steering system.

Unique suspension and steering tuning and better Torque Vectoring Control (eTVC) combines with a 15mm lower ride height to deliver the requisite dynamic improvements over what is already a very good chassis.

## Ostentatious

Ford produce the Fiesta ST in both three and five door guises, but there are no plans to import the five-door car to the UK. But when the three-door model looks this good, I doubt too many tears will be shed. The big front grille (which can look a bit ostentatious on an ordinary poverty-spec Fiesta supermini) works well with the ST's more extrovert body styling. That runs to an imposing black honeycomb trapezoidal front grille, plus a large rear spoiler with twin air vents and twin exhaust.

Colour choices including Molten Orange and Spirit Blue and an optional style pack adds red brake calipers and grey alloy wheels to pump up the aggression a bit.

The rising beltline of the Fiesta in profile doesn't seem to bode well for the rear seat passengers in this three-door car but the Fiesta surprises with decent legroom and headroom that's manageable even for a six-footer. The windows are small and set high up, so light isn't abundant in the back but the shopping bags, coats and road atlases that owners will store there most of the time won't be overly worried.

Standard spec for all Fiesta STs runs to 17in alloy wheels, a body styling kit with a chromed dual exhaust pipe, a Quickclear heated windscreen, front fog lights, a Thatcham Category 1 alarm, a leather-trimmed ST steering wheel and gearshift knob with red stitching plus a decent quality stereo system incorporating a DAB digital radio. There's also Ford's clever Bluetooth/USB SYNC connectivity and the 'My Key' system via which you can tailor the systems of the car to your own settings communicated to it via the ignition key.

The whole point of sporty Fiestas has been to offer a generous slice of fun coupled with modest running costs. It was always thus with the old XR2 and it continues with this generation ST. Even with 182PS on tap, you'll still see 47.9mpg on the combined cycle with emissions pegged at a very reasonable 138g/km. That compares well with cars like the 208 GTI, which manages 139g/km and the Fabia vRS at 148g/km.

It's hard to see how Ford could have done a lot better with the Fiesta ST. Warm hatches are usually a difficult thing to position as there will always be that nagging feeling that if you just saved a little more, you could be in something more exciting, but the ST has long stood up very well as a model in its own right.

With 182PS on tap translating into a sprint to 62mph of just 6.9 seconds, this Fiesta is quicker than many of the proper hot hatches of not so very long ago. It'll most certainly out-handle some fairly illustrious names as well.

An integral part of bringing a warm hatch to market is managing costs and it's here that the Ford really plays its trump card. It gets 47.9mpg on the combined fuel economy cycle and emissions are rated at just 138g/km - but the biggest draw is certain to be the price tag.

At just £17,000, the base model is very tempting and even in the £19,000 ST3 guise we've looked at here, it still strongly pays the value card.


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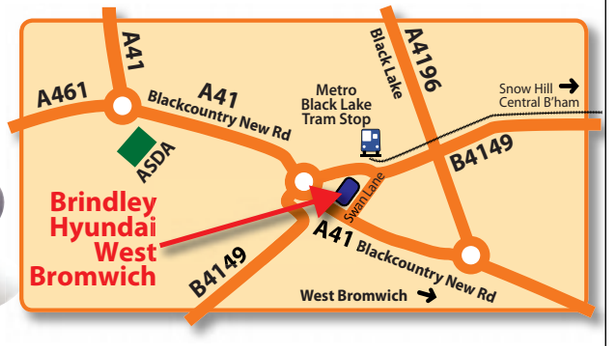


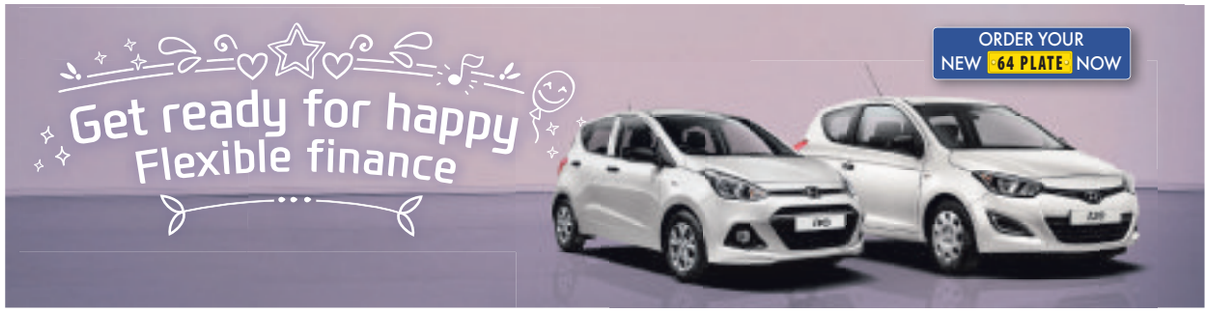


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The first cars offered to journalists to drive in China were rather harshly sprung but MG promised to fit springs and dampers that offered a more supple feel for UK roads.

The engine is a 1.5-litre 106PS four-cylinder unit that naturally drives the front wheels. There's nothing revolutionary about the suspension which is fairly standard set-up with MacPherson struts up front and a torsion beam at the rear. You also get a drive-by-wire braking system and an electrically-assisted power steering set-up.

The exterior styling looks quite smart, if maybe a little supermini-generic in a way that could have been produced from one of many manufacturers in this sector if you covered the badges over. Still, because the MG3 looks to undercut many of the established names, this rather blended styling is perhaps to its credit.

It continues the design theme introduced on the MG Zero concept vehicle and the company claims it's "a distinctive statement of modern British style designed to target young and style-conscious buyers". Make of that what you will.

The interior will come as a welcome relief to anybody who's a bit baffled by the complexity and deep technology of many modern superminis. Climb out of a Peugeot 208, with its self-parking system and tablet computer-style central infotainment system and, without being unduly blunt, it's very different. Still, the MG3 is tidy inside with seats that look and feel very Volkswagen.

There are a few white touches around the stereo, on the steering wheel, the door pulls, handbrake and gear lever but aside from that, everything is uniformly grey. Sit in the back seats and you'll find the front seats are sculpted to improve leg room, while the rear headroom is genuinely impressive.

Prices start at under £8,500, getting you this supermini-sized car for less than the kind of money you'd pay for a little citycar. All models get signature front LED lights and a hill holder clutch as standard, with all but the entry model featuring a high quality DAB audio system.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199. *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Swift specifications and prices refer to the 2014 facelift model.

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# Marking a milestone with two specials

**By Sharon Walters**

**SsangYong presented a fully refreshed range for 2014, and with registrations up by some 154 per cent on last year, is now one of the UK's fastest growing marques.**

With every car in the line-up being covered by an industry leading five-year limitless mileage warranty and representing such great value, perhaps that level of performance is not so surprising.

The brand first arrived in the UK 20 years ago, and to celebrate 60 years of vehicle production, SsangYong has introduced two special limited editions, one based on its popular Korando crossover and the other on the Rexton W 4x4.

All Rexton W 4x4 models are currently being offered with three years free servicing. This includes the Rexton W SX, EX and EX automatic models as well as the CSX commercial, and registered by September 30, 2014.

Combined with the existing market leading five-year limitless mileage warranty that protects all SsangYong cars, this brings three years free servicing (or three services, whichever comes sooner), giving customers complete peace of mind.

The Rexton W range is also currently available with 0 per cent finance from participating dealers.

## Comforts

Built on a steel ladder chassis and with a three-tonne towing capacity, the new SsangYong Rexton W is a serious off-roader and tow-car, yet with all the equipment and creature comforts expected of an urban cruiser. It is powered by SsangYong's own 2.0 litre Euro 5 turbo charged e-XDi200 diesel engine.

Taking the Rexton EX specification, the special 60th anniversary edition adds front parking sensors, an electric sunroof, heated seats front and rear, a power adjustable passenger seat, DAB satnav and is finished in pearl white lily metallic paint.

Available with either six-speed manual or five-speed Mercedes-Benz T-Tronic automatic transmission, prices range between £21,995 and £27,495, with the commercial at £18,495 (ex VAT).

The Giugiaro designed Korando is already noted for its great value, high level of equipment, interior space and two-tonne towing capability, and has been given a makeover inside and out, as well as enhanced driving refinement.

Externally, the front received an all-new treatment that included a slimmed down, black mesh radiator grille, contemporary projection headlights and LED daytime running lights, while the interior was given a significant re-design that included a completely revised dashboard. Great advances in reducing NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) have also been made.

## Modern

The new Korando is powered by a modern yet well-proven 2.0-litre Euro 5 turbo diesel engine. There is a choice of power outputs, manual and automatic transmission, and two wheel drive or 4x4.

Based on the four-wheel drive Korando ELX4, the special 60th anniversary edition adds 18in diamond cut wheels, an electric sunroof, rear spoiler and chrome detailing, and is completed with a pearl white lily metallic paint finish. It is available with either manual or automatic transmission.

Korando prices start from just £14,995.

The new SsangYong Turismo is almost without competition. At over five metres long and with a three-metre wheelbase, the car is larger than a standard sized MPV, yet is a car rather than a van-derived 'people carrier'.

Consequently its huge interior space and flexible passenger and load carrying capability means it can carry seven adults and 875 litres of luggage, through to two adults and 3,146 litres of load space.

Designed to appeal as family, leisure and business transportation, this new car blends multi-role flexibility with great ride comfort and the appointments and equipment levels of a luxury saloon.

The Turismo is powered by SsangYong's 2.0 litre turbo charged e-XDi200 diesel engine, and there's a choice of six-speed manual and five-speed Mercedes-Benz T-Tronic automatic transmission, and with the EX model, selectable 4x4 with low ratio as standard. All models offer an impressive 2.5-tonne towing capability, and prices start from just £17,995.

The Korando Sports brings a new level of refinement to the pick-up market, blending the suspension, engine and cabin finesse of a passenger car, with the silhouette, space and seating for five that's typical of a double cab, and the rugged workmanlike ability of a commercial pick-up.

This new Korando Sports will appeal to those who need a working vehicle, the practicality of four-wheel drive, the towing capability to haul up to 2.7 tonnes yet also the appointments of a family car.

There are two models to choose from, and both are extremely well appointed.

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# Mokka - a practical choice

## By James Parker

**Mokka buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead, there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.**

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds.

A better bet for petrol people is the Mokka we tried, the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo. Sixty is just 9.4s away enroute to 118mph, so it's usefully more rapid, and there's a healthier 200Nm of torque. Despite all this and the standard inclusion of 4WD, the provision of a 6-speed gearbox and more modern mechanicals mean that this pokier 1.4 is actually cheaper to run than the feebler 1.6.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 130PS 1.7-litre CDTi diesel capable of a top speed of around 116mph and rest to sixty in around 10s.

### Pulling

You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD. Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 300Nm in all. Every Mokka is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll take such a task in its stride.

Under the skin are the underpinnings of a supermini – more specifically, the Chevrolet Aveo, mechanicals Chevrolet has also used in its Trax small lifestyle Crossover that's one of this Vauxhall's sharpest rivals. In the back, the rear seats benefit from wide opening doors that simplify the fitment of a child seat, though that sharply rising waistline might restrict the view out for smaller occupants. As for luggage room, well, there's no high boot lip to negotiate and beyond it lies 356-litres of space .

**'Most telling comparisons come when you begin to stack this Mokka up against something more conventional**

So, this Mokka's a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/Crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend of think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it? Well, no. Vauxhall points out – correctly – that their car is a significantly larger thing – hence the price span for the range that lies in the £16,000 to £24,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be paying a price premium of around £2,500 for this Mokka over an equivalent Juke.

Perhaps the most telling comparisons come when you begin to stack this Mokka up against something more conventional. Why, for example, would you buy a conventional 1.6-litre petrol-powered Vauxhall Astra hatchback when a Mokka with the same engine would save you £1,500 and offer more luggage space?

If, having considered all of this, you decide that it is indeed a Mokka that you actually want, then you'll be pleased to find that whichever of the five-door models you choose – 1.6-litre petrol 2WD, 1.4-litre petrol turbo 4WD or the 1.7-litre 130PS CDTI diesel in either drive configuration - it'll come well equipped.

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**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and $CO_2$ emissions (g/km). Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 16v (115PS) VVT Start/Stop FWD: Urban: 33.6 (8.4), Extra-urban: 52.3 (5.4), Combined: 43.5 (6.5). $CO_2$ emissions 153g/km.#**

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**A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING** sevice by RC Decorating. Free competitve quotes: 07773 025880.

**C&D DECORATING** Qualified internal/ external refs. Free quotes/ OAP discount. 07973 286288

**MFR DECORATORS.** Internal/exterior. No job too small. Sensible prices. Free quotes. 07837 826372.

## plans prepared

**ADAM DESIGN**, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

## carpentry & joinery

**Collins**
- **Kitchen and Fitted Wardrobe Specialist**
- **Doors and Flooring**
- **Windows and Staircases**
- **Domestic and Commercial Refurbishments**

www.collinscarpentryandjoinery.co.uk
**0121 531 0264 / 07903 234 137**

## plastering

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE** Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## removals

**ABLE REMOVALS**
**Local & Distance**
**Domestic & Commercial**
**Competitive Prices:**
**Moves from only £99**
**Call 07870 341089**

**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS**
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
**Call Don:**
**0800 587 0377**
**or 07749 941319**

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN!** Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house. 1 item,07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN,** Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

## roofing

**AD ROOFING**
Flat, main, chimney/gutter repairs
**FREE QUOTES**
**01902 752161 /**
**07538 118034** 24 hr
Approved

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**PREMIER ROOFING** New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601or 07875 387445.

## skip hire

**BLITZ SKIPS**
- **AFFORDABLE SKIPS**
- **2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE**
- **LOCAL COMPANY**
- **RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY SERVICE**

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***7AM-6PM***
**01902 870370**

**GOLDSHILL SKIPS**
Skip Hire Transfer Station
Wants your Waste! Stop the risk of flytipping.
Open to the public. Any size vehicle.
Any Quantity. For Best Prices
Please call: 0121 557 3346

**RUSSELL SKIPS**
**A absolute affordable skip**
**Mini, midi skips**
**Prompt delivery / collection**
**(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990**

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.** Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

**STONES SKIP HIRE**
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

## tree services

**PROFESSIONAL, BUDGET TREE** surgery. Small or large. Conifers and hedges. Call Adam on 07936 882552 or 0121 5053558.

**Aston's** Auctioneers & Valuers
**01384 212555**
**Tower St.**
**Dudley DY1 1NB**

**ALL ITEMS WANTED FOR AUCTION OR CASH PAID**

**WE WANT - jewellery, watches, antiques, coins, medals, clocks, tools, ceramics, glassware, cars, motorbikes, quality bicycles, anything considered. SPECIALIST TOY & MODEL DEPT - Dinky toys, Model Railway, Star Wars, Barbie/Sindy, Lego etc.**
**www.astonsauctioneers.co.uk**

**C W DOORS**
***DOOR SUPPLIER AND FITTERS***
***SPECIAL OFFERS!***
- 6 Panel white grained doors, supplied and fitted **£54.50** each
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- External doors supplied and fitted from **£210**
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**PVC Now Available**
**6 Internal Panel Doors Fully Fitted £299***
**Freephone 0800 019 3376**
**07810122133** *Standard sizes apply

## kitchens

**LOW COST KITCHENS**
HIGH QUALITY 18mm CABINETS AS STANDARD
SOFT CLOSE HINGES FREE OF CHARGE
KITCHENS FROM £499 - NEVER BEATEN ON PRICE
FREE MEASURE AND DESIGN SERVICE
CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE 0121 2888003
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SPEEDY KITCHENS, BROAD STREET, SNEYTON, ST1 4EJ

## gas fitting

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Save up to 40% on your energy bills NOW!
*Have a new "a" rated worcester with a 8 or 10 yr warranty !!*
GET YOUR FREE QUOTE TODAY !!!
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## fencing

**COLLIS** FENCING, GATES & SHEDS! Established 1957
*MAJOR SUPPLIER AND FITTER OF ALL TIMBER FENCING, GATES, SHEDS, ALSO JOINERY GATES IN SOFTWOOD AND CEDARWOOD.*
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**01543 686370** Open 7 days
QUEENS DRIVE, CHASETOWN, BURNTWOOD WS7 4QF
6 days a week delivery service available to all areas
www.collissheds.co.uk

## house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

**A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE**
*Full, part and single rubbish removed.*
Garage and sheds cleared.
Ercol and Teak furniture wanted
**Call now on: 01922 492007**

# 4 Pets & Animals

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL** Dog pups, KC reg, working parents, FTCH sire, tan and white, microchipped £500. 01785 282380.

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BRITISH CREAM** pedigree male cat, approximately 2 years old, no papers, £80. 0121 520 8924.

**TABBY KITTENS** three, 9 weeks old. £20 each.
Details call 07746 286091.

# 5 Business & Farming

## business directory

## commercial premises

**BTC PROPERTIES**
**UNITS AND OFFICES TO LET**
6,000 Sq Ft Yard
High St Tipton
1000 Sq Ft Unit Coseley
**Offices also available.**
**Flexible terms**
**Call 01902 497696 or 07788 591679**

## business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## commercial premises sale / let

**UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE** to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

# 6 Property

## properties wanted

**WE BUY HOUSES**
**4 CASH**
In any condition
**Call Now**
**0121 629 0456**
www.midlandpropertybuyers.com

## accommodation to let

**No Deposit**
**"Move In Today"**
Studios from £90pw*
Rooms from £60pw*
*Includes Most Bills
D.S.S. Welcome
Check Website - Live List
All Black Country
01902 21 31 21
Accommodation.com

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**APARTMENT** 2-bed, Wednesbury quiet cul-de-sac, garden, parking, DSS ok, £450pcm. 07460 334287.

**LARGE TWO** bedroom flat, in Cannock, includes cooker/washer. No Dss. £475pcm. 07971 560336.

**We NEED Houses In Your Area**
**Cash in 7 days - NO FEES!**
**CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE VALUATION**
ELLIOTT & COOPER **0121 663 0983** (8am-8pm 7 days)
**Top Prices Paid - Guaranteed**
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# We Buy Any House
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**A fair offer from people you can trust.**
**No fees - Free solicitors**
EVERY TIME
**Call Stan on 01902 628047 or 0800 032 1718**

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**WE PAY MORE!**
**We are a local independent Company**
* subject to terms
• Free confidential service
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• Any condition • Any area*
• Repossessions Stop
• Deceased estates
CallFree **0800 169 1118** (24 hrs)

NOW
**CASH PAID FOR YOUR PROPERTY**
Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees*
*Subject to terms
ASTON WOOD PROPERTIES 0800 0852455 24/7

# WE BEAT ANY PRICE!
**We pay 100% of purchase price**
• Guaranteed offer* • Any condition
• Free solicitors • No fees* GUARANTEED
FOR THE BEST PRICE ON YOUR HOME
Call 0800 783 2822 24 hrs
* Terms apply
Dewmark Homes

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LOOK
• WE BUY ANY HOUSE
• ANY AREA
• ANY CONDITION
*A guaranteed offer**
*no fees* free solicitors*
*Subject to terms
24-7 0800 085 6626

# A Better Cash Deal
*It's as simple as that, you will get the best deal on your home from*
**FIRST GENERAL HOMES Call 24/7 0800 9171233**

## properties wanted

**Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!**

- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Get up to 100% of the market value
- Free valuation. Free consultation
- 100% Confidential. No obligation

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The Property Ombudsman SALES

Yellow Springbok®

UP TO 100% PAID

SOLD

NO OBLIGATION FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline CALL NOW 0800 092 5743 01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk

**WALSALL/BLOXWICH**. 3 bed house to let and rooms to let. 07825 581676 (no texts).

## flats for sale

LOOK

**ALDRIDGE**

Sought after 2 bed superior ground floor apartment. Close all amenities.

**£182,995 ono.**

**01922 458665.**

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL**

**01902 317878**

ClassifiedAds

# 7 Jobs

## courses

**TOP GEAR Driver Training**

- LGV / PCV Training
- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
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- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

**0121 585 0834**

**www.topgear-lgv.com**

**CRH Transport Training** Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

**NEED TO GET THE HOURS IN?** CPC Driver Training. Contact QSP to book your course 0121 5652277

**BILLY THOMAS HGV Driver Training**

**DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**
**HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)**
**7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY**
**CAR & TRAILER (B+E)**
**MINIBUS (D1)**
**1-2-1 TRAINING**
**INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR**
**CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs**

**01902 744726 / 07831 646601**

## drivers

**CLASS 1 WAGON & DRAG Driver** & Class 2 experienced RORO Driver. Excellent rate of pay . No nights out. Not agency work. Tel: 0121 500 4901

**7.5 TONNE DRIVER** with Hiab experience or will train. Experienced general haulage, must be able to sheet. No multi-drops. Country-wide deliveries. Tel: 0121 557 0320.

## engineering

**BALDWINS CRANE HIRE LTD - Field Service Engineer** required. Based from our West Midlands Depot. Desirable skills - Mobile crane experience Essential skills - Standard truck fitter with hydraulic and electrical knowledge. Good rates of pay and overtime available. Contact: 0121 557 0760 or send CV to birmingham@baldwinscranehire.com

## nursing & carers

**TIPTON HOMECARE LTD** require Community Care Workers. Applicants must be honest, trustworthy and reliable and CRB checked. Hours to suit individuals, evenings / weekends, full / part time staff. Driver preferred but not essential. Areas to be covered Tipton, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Great Barr & Dudley. Please contact Stuart Higgins 0121 557 3649 or email stuart.higgins@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

## office & secretarial

**PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR** required to work in practice. Working knowledge of CIS is required as will be completing contractors returns also. Knowledge of Sage package advantageous and should have excellent payroll knowledge on all regulations and requirements for RTI Salary paid upon experience. Apply with CV to info@shabirnawab.co.uk

## part time - general

**EXPERIENCED POST OFFICE ASSISTANT** required, Approx 25 hrs p.w. Tipton. Call 07718 626257

**PART TIME FUNERAL ARRANGER** to cover Birmingham areas. 0121 554 0617/ 3745.

## full time - general

Shropshire STAR

CIRCULATION REPRESENTATIVE

**The Shropshire Star is looking for a circulation representative to lead and motivate the sales teams to actively drive sales, grow audience and strengthen brand awareness.**

Working in a busy customer focused environment the successful candidate will manage sales within a defined territory working closely with colleagues, retailers and supply points to maximise all business and sales opportunities. You will develop and nurture existing business relationships whilst actively seeking new sales opportunities working hard to achieve and exceed agreed KPI's.

The successful applicant will have a professional attitude, be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills and have a real passion for driving sales. A proven track record in sales, particularly within the newspapers industry would be advantageous but is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

In return we offer a competitive annual salary, 25 days annual holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme. Additionally the role comes with the benefit of a company car so a full driving licence is required.

**Working Hours:**
**37.5 hours per week, worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis**

**Applications including full CV by email:**
**personnel@expressandstar.co.uk**

**Postal address:**
**Personnel Department**
**Midland News Association**
**Queen Street**
**Wolverhampton**
**WV1 1ES**

**Closing Date for applications:**
**Tuesday 26th August, 2014.**

Part of Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

**MNA Media**

# 8 Motoring

## cars over £1500

**FIRD FIESTA STYLE**, 1.25, 3Dr, 2009, (59 plate), MoT and tax till end December 2014, low mileage, £5,750. o.n.o. 07985 727772.

**FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6** diesel Estate, 125,000 miles, tax end of Sept, 12 months MoT, £4,000. 07511 913896.

**FORD KA STUDIO**
3 door, yellow, 58 reg, 18,800 miles by 1 lady owner, s/h, 12 months MoT.
**£2,250.**
**Telephone 01543 671239.**

**MAZDA MX 5 1.8. 2000**
Good condition. New tyres. 11 months MoT. 114,000 miles. Silver,
**£1,400 with soft top.**
**£1,650 with hardtop**
**01785 715210 / 0753 0634115.**

**MINI ONE D**
55 regn, 12m MoT, 6m Tax, 103,000mls, 65+ mpg, only 2 owners, FSH, A/C, new tyres. £500 spent on recent service. Immaculate. Ready to drive.
**£3,950 ono.**
**07719 496669.**

**NISSAN NOTE** Acenta, 2008 reg, 1.4 petrol, 60,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 2 owners, FSH, very good condition. £3,800. 01785 663698.

**VAUXHALL 1.4 MERIVA**
Reduced 2011, 16v Exclusive. Long MoT, very good condition, illness forces sale. Priced well below C.A.P. lowest price for vehicle.
**£5,800.**
**07836 734360.**

**VAUXHALL CORSA**, 2006, 21,000 miles, silver, MoT, £2,950 ono. 07891 065667.

**VW GOLF MK5** 56, MoT Mar 2015, tax Sept, some history, excellent condition, very good MPG, CD player. £2,495 ono. 07528 049244.

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**CITROEN C3** 1.4 Desire, 54 plate, long Tax / MoT. New cam belt. Good condition £1,300. 07720 545406.

**FIAT PUNTO** 1.2, 5dr, in gold, tax and MoT till March 15, 82,000 miles, £995 ono. 07702 172843.

**FORD MONDEO LX**, 2002, 157k miles, silver, 6 months tax/MoT. Owned from 2005, regularly serviced, excellent runner. £550 ono. 07713 341856.

**HONDA JAZZ SE** 2006, 19,200 miles, met blue, long tax & MoT, fsh, superb, pensioners car, must see. £4,750 ono 07881 933009.

**HYUNDAI TRAJET**, 7 seater, 1.9 diesel, 2003, tax, MoT, mechanically sound, body needs attention, hence £500 ono. 01543 425019.

**BMA** Est. Here 25 Years

**A WIDE RANGE OF CARS £995 AND UNDER**

**52 Renault Clio** 5Dr hatch 1.4 Blue .....**£995**
**52 Vauxhall Corsa** 5Dr hatch 1.2 Silver .....**£995**
**02 Peugeot 206** 3 Dr hatch 1.1 Light Blue Metallic .....**£995**
**51 Peugeot 307** 5Dr hatch 1.6 Silver .....**£950**

*Full MOTs & warrantes*

Phone or Call in Open 7 Days A Week
www.bmamotors.co.uk
01902 490555 / 07553 358610
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

**RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC**, 2002(52), 1.6 petrol, 89k miles, metallic red. 12 months MoT. One owner. £950 ono. 01948 663113.

**TOYOTA YARIS**, 2004, 94,000 miles, silver, air bag, fsh, MoT, metallic paint, tax, stereo. £1,275 ono. 07718 242876.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** 2003, 1.2, 5-dr hatchback, 90,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, very good condition in/out £1,075. 07808 470751.

## commercial vehicles

**A BETTER USED VAN** All sizes and models, PX, Finance, Wednesbury Motors 0121 505 2202.

**VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7 VAN**, side loader, 2004, 98,000 miles, MoT. £1,500.
01922 495631 or 07768 841443.

## driving tuition

**Homer's**
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

## motorbikes

**QUAD BIKE**, TGB 2wd, 460cc, 11 plate, road legal, 9 months MoT, 370 miles only, as new, £3,700 ono. Telephone 01543 270331.

**WANTED** Good quality, low mileage motorcycles. Cash on collection. Call 01902 312939 / 07748 150779.

## scrap vehicles

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**1st CHOICE**
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

**A B SPARES**
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
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01902 659775 evenings

**MCB**
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
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**SCRAPCARBUYERS.CO.UK**
TOP PRICES PAID
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0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

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Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
Best Prices!
01902 498542
01902 658792 EVE

## vehicle hire

**BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE** Daily,Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

## vehicles wanted

**CROWN MOTORS** Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 597035 / 07903 549849.

## spare & accessories

## spares/parts

**BASTABLES CAR SPARES** Batteries, 3 yr warranty, Antifreeze/coolant. All seasons screenwash. 0121 5522851 / 0121 5448858

# 9 Local Information

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**
**or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

## public & legal notices

**SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Footpath 108 – Walsall) (Temporary Footpath Closure) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along Footpath 108 as shown on the Walsall Definitve Map between the River Tame Bridge and Bescot Stadium Station. The maximum duration is 6 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/09/14, effective from 01/09/14. Pedestrians will be diverted via: the footpath bordering the River Tame, Bescot Crescent and vice-versa. Purpose – maintenance work to a bridge by Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary One-Way Operation) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath between King Street and Highgate Street other than in a northerly direction. King Street will also be closed from Halesowen Road to the boundary of No.1 King Street. Traffic will be diverted via Elbow Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 09/09/14, effective from 03/09/14. Alternative route for southbound vehicles via Highgate Street, Heathfield Way and Halesowen Road. Purpose – gas mains renewal by National Grid Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Johns Lane, Tipton) (Temporary One-Way Operation) Order 2014, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Johns Lane, Tipton between Bevan Road and Horseley Heath other than in a north westerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 17/09/14, effective from 01/09/14. Alternative route for south easterly bound vehicles via: Horseley Heath, Denbigh Drive and Bevan Road. Purpose – service connections by National Grid Gas.

**SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Footway Closure) Order 2014,** has made an Order to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along the footway on the south west side (former Sandwell College side) of High Street, West Bromwich, between its junctions with Lodge Road and Dartmouth Street, and suspend parking bays or any other traffic restriction as considered necessary on High Street, West Bromwich, between its junctions with Lodge Road and Dartmouth Street, to facilitate construction of the Health Futures University Technical College. Pedestrians will be diverted to the opposite footway. The maximum duration is 18 months. Work starts 24/08/14 and is expected to be completed by 31/08/15.

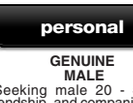
**The Borough Council of Sandwell (Overend Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014,** has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Overend Street, West Bromwich, between Herbert Street and Legge Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 09/09/14, effective from 27/08/14. Alternative route via: Overend Street, High Street, Bull Street (West Bromwich Ringway) and vice-versa. Purpose – to facilitate service connections by South Staffs Water.

# 10 Personals

## personal

**GENUINE MALE**
Seeking male 20 - 40, for friendship, and companionship. Must be honest and genuine. Photo appreciated, all letters answered.
Box Number P19408 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

## sports clubs



**TANTANY LIONS FC CHARTER STANDARD CLUB**
Based in West Bromwich.
Are looking for a Qualified level 1 Coach to coach our Under 10 team.
Also looking for U11 players to strengthen our team.
Contact Paul on
**07879 860963.**

## general

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**GENUINE LADY**
w.l.t.m a genuine honest down to earth gentleman in view to holidays, days out and marriage.
Genuine replies only.
Box Number P19406 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL**

**01902 317878**

ClassifiedAds

# Local Specialists

## Carpets

**ABLE & BROMLEY CARPETS/BEDS**
FURNITURE/RUGS/VINYLS & LAMINATES
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE

DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT? OR ANYONE WHO JUST NEEDS EXTRA HELP!
**WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.**
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets
'FREE OF CHARGE'
Shave doors. Bed assemble and disposal.
*PLUS FREE FITTING ON SELECTED RANGES.* Family run Est since 1978
Click on-line for many great prices
Terms and conditions apply. www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Free quotes and planning

| 80/20 Wool Twists | Wiltons | Bleach cleanable carpets | Mega Ceep Saxony |
|---|---|---|---|
| Was £22 sq yd Now Only £8.99 sq yd | From Only £8.99 sq yd | from £4.99 | £12.99 sq mt. |

Special Offer only 6 left. Double memory beds plus free matching headboard RRP £799 Now only £250
Divan Beds Single from £96 Double from £160
Quality Double Memory Foam bed RRP Was £899 Now 299
Luxury Supreme Double bed RRP £899 Now £360

OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00
Tipton/Wednesbury/Walsall
Kiernon Bromley 0121 530 3633
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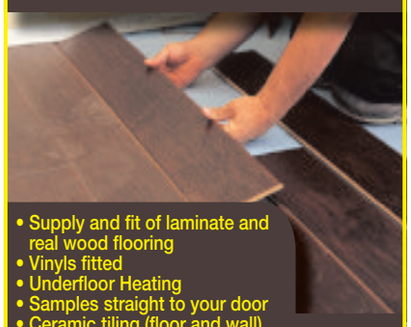

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# Waiting game over Lescott's debut

Football

ALAN Irvine admits he still does not know when injured summer signing Joleon Lescott will make his Albion debut.

Medics have not set a date for the centre-back to return to training after calf and knee injuries limited his pre-season match action to just 35 minutes.

And boss Irvine admits the former Wolves and England defender's absence has lasted longer than expected.

"It has gone on a lot longer then I hoped but he had a setback when he played in the Forest game so that was a blow," said Irvine.

"All I can do is take the advice and timescales from the medical people and at the moment they haven't given me one.

"So that means they feel they still need to keep a hold of him."

Lescott was one of the Baggies' star summer signings after leaving Premier League champions Manchester City at the end of last season but he has figured for just 35 minutes in the pre-season defeat at Nottingham Forest.

The Baggies are still targeting wingers and a striker as they look to complete the summer revamp of their squad but Irvine has again admitted he is running out of time to add to his squad before Saturday's season opener against Sunderland at The Hawthorns.

"It's looking unlikely," he said. "There are all sorts of things going on behind the scenes and Richard Garlick, Terry Burton the recruitment staff and the chairman are all working extremely hard to get more players in.

"But it's extremely difficult because you come up against dead ends on a number of occasions.

"At the Premier League managers' meeting, Paul Lambert, Harry Redknapp and Steve Bruce were all saying the same things about the same problems.

"It seems that us, Sunderland, Stoke and West Ham all seem to be linked to the same players. We are never linked with the same ones as Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal!

"But you can band the clubs and it does seem every agent you speak to about a player mentions the same clubs being in for them."

## Davis is a top signing – Clark

BIRMINGHAM CITY boss Lee Clark says David Davis is a top signing for the club.

The 23-year-old former Wolves and Walsall midfielder made his debut in Blues' 3-1 Capital One Cup victory over Cambridge United on last week.

And, ahead of the club's clash with Brighton, Clark said he's been delighted with Davis' impact.

"I thought he was outstanding against Cambridge, especially when you think he hasn't played much football," said Clark.

"He cramped up towards the end, but he showed his character to stay on and fight through it.

"He was tenacious, quick across the pitch and passed the ball well. We think we've got a good one there."

Smethwick-born Davis made 61 appearances for Wolves and also had loan spells at Darlington, Walsall, Shrewsbury Town, Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Chesterfield.

Wolves boss Kenny Jackett said:"When the opportunity came for him to go to Birmingham it was a good deal for the club and also the right time for Dave to move on."

# New boys Tividale claim second scalp

**Tividale FC 3 Coalville Town FC 0**

**THREE goals in the last five minutes of the game saw Tividale grab victory over last season's runners-up Coalville Town.**

Tividale started the brighter and for the first 15 minutes there was nothing between the two sides and had the first effort on goal when Mitchel Botfield was fouled on the edge of the box.

Coalville's first attack came through Jed Davies but Mark Smith got in a tackle before he could shoot.

Tividale were then awarded a free kick for another heavy challenge this time on Jordan Archer. Botfield stepped up for this one but he also failed to trouble Coalville's keeper Sean Bowler.

Coalville started to up the tempo and were getting more of the possession but neither side were gaining an advantage.

On 23 minutes Coalville had their first at goal when Ben Saunders tried a speculative effort that sailed harmlessly wide.

Coalville then had the best chance of the game on 28 minutes when they won a free kick in the middle of the D and Stuart Cameron fired his initial effort into the wall but when the rebound came back to him his second effort clipped the crossbar with Tividale keeper Charles Price beaten.

Tividale brought on Matt Jukes for lone striker Archer on 68 minutes and he was immediately put through but although his effort beat Bowler it rolled wide of the post.

On 85 minutes Tividale broke the deadlock when

Football

Matt Jukes hit an absolute stunner that came from nowhere leaving Bowles grasping at fresh air.

Coalville now under pressure were caught again in the last minute of regular time. This time Tividale's second sub Leigh Downing was brought down in the area and he got up to slam the ball home. Tividale were not finished there and deep into injury time Jukes hit the title favourites again to make it three .

**Lincoln United 1 Tividale 3**

Tividale marked their first Evo-Stik League game with a 3-1 success at Lincoln Utd. The visitors went into half-time in the lead, from a Zac Foster free-kick.

Twelve minutes into the second half the scores were level thanks to an unmarked Sean Wright. Substitute Jordan Archer latched on to a ball down the left flank. He outpaced his defender and squared for Mitchell Botfield to coolly sidefoot home . Archer was again the key man for the third in injury time, beating the offside trap. Tividale host Sheffield FC on this Saturday, 3pm kick off.

## Firsts are closing in on second placing

**Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1**
**The George 247**
**Great Barr 172**

THE first team further improved their chances of taking the runners-up spot after completing another big home victory, this time by 75 shots against local rivals Great Barr.

The best of the nine George winners were Steve Dicken (21-6), Paul Hemming (21-7) and captain Phil Clinton (21-8).

**South Staffs Premier Division**
**Penn 234**
**The George 165**

The second team who are now safe from the threat of relegation went down to a 69-shot defeat at Penn. The George still managed to pick up four points after wins by Neil Hopwood (21-13), John Deakin (21-16), Stewart Meddings (21-17) and Steve Fagan (21-20).

**Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2**
**The George 231 Kings Norton 137**

The third team moved to within a point of top place with just three games left after a 94-shot win against Kings Norton. Bob Sansom (21-3), Fred Richards (21-4), Dave James (21-6), Dave Hill and Lee Dicken (both 21-8) all won.

## Wrestling star Marty holds audience

**Former WWE wrestler Marty Jannetty, right, signs autographs with tag team partner "Mad Dog Max"**

MORE than 300 wrestling fans turned out to watch American star Marty Jannetty take to the ring in the Black Country.

The WWE favourite, first name Fredrick, performed in world title contests and headlined pay-per-view events alongside Shawn Michaels as 'the Rockers.'

He beat his former partner in 1993 for the Intercontinental title, regarded as the organisation's second biggest belt. Now 54, the tag team specialist visited Darlaston's All Active Centre to pair up with promoter Matt Powell, in character as Mad Dog Maxx, to take on the tandem of Johnny Thunder, aka car insurance salesman Jamie Firkin from Darlaston and Joey Syxx, who by day is Willenhall welder Mike Jones. Both are 25. The American star and his partner were able to secure a popular victory. And Mr Jannetty said he still enjoys getting in the ring: "It's still all I live for, that may be sad to some people but it's the best thing in the world to me. There's nothing better. It kind of keeps you young because you get to be a kid in the ring – great when you are 54."

And I am still reasonably healthy, apart from a few injuries here and there.

"I still feel like I used to and I still love bouncing around."

## Long move could be a windfall

ALBION will net around £600,000 if Shane Long completes his surprise £12m switch from Hull to Southampton.

The Baggies will land an extra payment from the Tigers after including a sell-on clause in the £6m transfer that took Long to the KC Stadium in January.

That fee could have risen to more than £7m based on appearances and goals but those bonuses will not now materialise with Long moving again so quickly.

But it is believed the Baggies will receive 10 per cent of the £6m profit the Tigers are set to generate if hecompletes his move to St Mary's. The move will mean another reunion for Long with the Baggies, on August 23.

## Irvine has lifted mood, says Brunt

CAPTAIN Chris Brunt says boss Alan Irvine has lifted Albion's spirit from rock bottom.

The 29-year-old says the atmosphere at the Hawthorns is a "million times" different from that of last season when the Baggies campaign was marred by a host of off-field problems.

Brunt says the spirit in the dressing room had "pretty much died" toward the end of last season and had credited head coach Irvine with reviving it.

"He deserves a lot of credit," said Brunt.

"His sessions have been great, the training has been brilliant and the lads have been really up for it so that's credit to him, Rob and Keith."

# SPORT

**Tividale twice**
League's new boys claim second scalp
Page 59

**Marty Madness**
US wrestling star pulls in the crowds
Page 59

Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Blackford returns to share role as coach

WEDNESBURY Rugby Club will welcome back coach Adam Blackford, for the new season.

Blackford joined Wednesbury in July 2012 as head coach, and was joined by Tom Huggins as assistant coach.

At the end of his first season having enjoyed great success, he was forced to resign his role of coach because of work commitments, Huggins took over.

With the work situation know resolved Blackford is teamed up again with Huggins, where they will share the role of head coach.

Blackford will have responsibility of the forwards and Huggins the backs.

Both are highly trained coaches and have a vast experience at both playing and coaching.

Both joined Wednesbury after long playing careers with Dudley Kingswindford and both have spent the closed season recruiting new players.

They are looking for players at all levels including complete novices.

The club also has level 1 and 2 coaches to help with new players. If anyone is interested in coming to Wednesbury please contact the club on 0121 502 2477, Adam on 07875442660 or Tom on 07572764428.

## Single goal cracks Potters

**Stoke 0 Aston Villa 1**

ANDREAS Weimann's second-half strike proved the difference as Aston Villa won 1-0 at Stoke to open their account for the season.

Weimann rifled a shot in off Asmir Begovic in the 50th minute to steer the visitors to three points.

Villa had not won away from home since January 1 and their six league games on the road previous to this had all ended in defeat in a poor conclusion to 2013/14.

Stoke, on the other hand, had finished the campaign strongly, and lost only three times in the league at the Britannia Stadium over the whole season.

However, it was Villa who made the winning start with a result that could have been even more emphatic had Gabriel Agbonlahor and substitute Leandro Bacuna not squandered decent opportunities either side.

# Let's prove the pundits wrong, says Irvine

Football

ALBION boss Alan Irvine is challenging his players to prove the pundits wrong as he began the final countdown to his first Premier League game in charge.

The Baggies head coach is hoping that being written off by former players and commentators will inspire his Hawthorns squad to stay clear of relegation danger.

His side have been widely tipped for the drop after last season's behind-the-scenes chaos and poor performances along with a pre-season disrupted by injuries and administrative delays over new signings.

But Irvine hopes he can use the pundits' words to inspire his team. "I'm more than happy to use it to motivate the players," he said.

"I'm not burying my head in the sand and thinking everything is perfect. I know it isn't.

"We've had a very disrupted pre-season.

"And it's a club that had a lot of problems last season.

"My appointment didn't change a whole load of that – that's where we are just now.

"I can't affect any of that. All I can do is work as hard as possible and hopefully we'll get the right results. Hopefully we'll get all the players back and we'll get them all gelled together and go from there."

The Baggies are joint third favourites with bookmakers bet365 to be relegated, alongside Leicester at 9/4 and behind Burnley 4/7 and QPR 15/8.

That view has been echoed in predictions across the media. But Irvine said: "I don't read newspapers or go on social networks.

"It takes me long enough to reply to e-mails and text messages so the idea of going on Facebook and Twitter is a non-starter! I don't listen to phone-ins. I just watch the TV and it's not a case of doing it to bury my head in the sand because I'm not surprised by it.

"People will put everything together and think we've got a difficult job.

"They know what happened last season and the only thing that changes it is us getting results.

"We can worry about what happened in the past or what people are saying or we can get on with the work and hopefully get the right results."

# SENSE OF DEJA VU FOR ALBION FANS

**Albion 2 Sunderland 2**

**ALBION fans left the opening game of the Alan Irvine era still not knowing quite what to expect from the men in pinstripes.**

On one hand, Irvine's new-look side showed a discipline, togetherness and sense of purpose that was too often missing during last season's annus horribilis.

On the other, they couldn't kick the habit of squandering leads that blighted them under former boss Pepe Mel. And the result – yet another damn draw.

The Baggies drew 15 games last season and many of the memorable ones came in matches they really should have won.

So seeing Seb Larsson steal in unmarked to side-foot home a Sunderland equaliser with five minutes remaining must have given home supporters packed into The Hawthorns a nasty sense of déjà vu.

### Mission

But both Irvine and the Albion supporters must also have reflected on some positive signs from a side setting out on a mission to heal the scars he described so frankly in the build-up to the season's big kick-off.

Most obviously was the goalscoring confidence of Saido Berahino – a young man for whom a hugely promising debut first-team campaign degenerated into a mire of off-field issues.

The highly-talented home-grown striker looked leaner, fitter and altogether more focused as he

Football

kicked off the new season with a display of self-belief to strike home an ice-cool penalty and produce a fine finish under pressure to cancel out Lee Cattermole's brilliant opener and put his side 2-1 up.

In midfield, Craig Gardner was all energy and drive against his former club and capped an eye-catching display by laying in Berahino's second goal .

The spirit that appeared broken at the end of last season was tested from the fifth minute when they neglected to pick up Wes Brown at a set-piece then failed to clear his header properly and were punished by Cattermole, who sent a rocket into the top corner from 25 yards.

They might have been 2-0 down when Valentin Roberge sent a free header wide – the ease with which Sunderland found space at set-pieces will be a major concern for Irvine.

But overall the Baggies responded well and had earned their equaliser when it came, albeit in questionable circumstances, when Anichebe won a penalty.

Victor Anichebe goes to ground after questionable contact from Sunderland's Valentin Roberge to win Albion a spot-kick

## New boys outshine the stars

**Albion U-21s 2 Wolves U-21s 1**

THE big names might have been on show but it was the up-and-coming stars who stole the limelight as Albion under-21s edged out their Wolves counterparts.

Kyle Howkins headed the winner for Albion with 20 minutes to go, earning redemption after his earlier error had allowed Eusebio Bancessi to cancel out Adil Nabi's first-half strike.

Jason Davidson, Gareth McAuley and £10million man Brown Ideye all played 90 minutes at the Hawthorns, while Wolves summer signing Tommy Rowe played the first half.

The visiting side also featured Manchester City centre-back George Swan, who is on trial at Molineux.

After Ideye was denied by a superb Swann block, on the half hour Albion went in front. Nabi ran on to Leko's pass, turned inside his man and curled a shot off the bar but seconds later he was in the same place, unmarked, to drive a low shot past Jonathan Flatt.

Howkins dropped a clangerwhen he rolled the ball across his own box for Bancessi to smash home.

## Two late goals set up replay

**St Andrews 2 Tipton 2**

TWO goals in the last five minutes earned Tipton Town an FA Cup replay after a 2-2 draw at Leicestershire side St Andrews.

Sam Taylor scored from a penalty. Callum Garis added a second.

But Courtney Pitt buried a header before Alex Ford set up the replay.

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